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Aloni's scathing memoirs tell all

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The maxi makes a comeback

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Natan Zach - a 'graveyard poet'

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A Palestinian rioter (right) is hit with a rubber bullet just after throwing a rock in Hebron's casbah yesterday. (Bryan McBurney)

32 Hebron rioters wounded

By JON IMMANUEL

The funeral of one of the three Palestinians killed in clashes with soldiers and settlers in Hebron on Tuesday sparked fresh clashes between Palestinians and soldiers there yesterday. Palestinian sources reported 32 wounded, including two seriously, from rubber bullets and tear gas. Nader Saed, 24, died Tuesday after he was struck in the eye by a rubber bullet fired by a soldier at close range, after rioters threw stones and firebombs at troops. This followed the shooting death of a man by one of two yeshiva students, who said the man had thrown a bottle at them containing "a burning chemical substance." Women at the funeral shouted "Izzadin," the name of Hamas's military wing. Others shouted "Revenge." Palestinian policemen also attended the funeral and fired in the air as Saed, his body covered in a Palestinian flag, was buried.

However, the Palestinian police also helped to prevent yesterday's clashes from getting out of hand, when hundreds tried to cross the line between H-1 (under Palestinian control) into H-2 (under IDF control). Soldiers were hit by rocks, and firebombs reached the gates of the Jewish quarter at the north end of Shuhada Street. Following the same procedures they did during riots in Hebron last month, an inadequate cordon of Palestinian policemen linked arms across the street, after which rioters broke through and were dragged back. Finally trucks backed down the street, forcing the rioters back. Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS) forces climbed onto roofs to bring down youths hoping to hit soldiers with stones from slingshots. PPS chief Jibril Rajoub told Channel 1 news that, "Without progress in a political direction there will be no [security] coordination." However, he also said police would take unilateral action to protect the peace in

the area where they are responsible for security. There were contacts between the two sides' security forces, based on an understanding that the Palestinian Police would prevent protesters getting close to soldiers, if the IDF used only rubber bullets and tear gas. The IDF said two border policemen were slightly wounded by stones thrown across the dividing line. The two yeshiva students whose shooting sparked Tuesday's rioting were released yesterday on NIS 20,000 bail and ordered to stay out of Hebron for two months. Last night, a settler was detained by police near Ramallah after he fired shots into the air. The man told police he was run off the road and stoned by a mob of Palestinians before being rescued by Israeli soldiers. Palestinians at the scene said the firing was unprovoked. Dozens of settlers protested outside the police station where the man was being questioned.

Clinton willing to meet PA negotiators

Abbas, Erekat arrive in DC today

By HILLEL KUTTNER, JON IMMANUEL, and LIAT COLLINS

Palestinian negotiators Saeb Erekat and Mahmoud Abbas are due to arrive in Washington today to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, in what the US views as the next step in its attempt to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

President Bill Clinton is willing to meet with the Palestinian negotiators, the White House said yesterday. This could indicate he plans to assume a higher profile in the negotiations; it is highly unusual for a US president to meet alone with negotiators, as opposed to heads of government or foreign ministers.

"There is nothing scheduled at this time, but the president has indicated his willingness [to meet] should his participation be necessary," White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters.

The meetings with the Palestinians are to cover the proposals discussed here Monday between Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which centered on proceeding now to the final-status negotiations. PA Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi had already met with Ross on Tuesday. The meetings will be "very much an extension of the talks that the president and the secretary of state had with Prime Minister Netanyahu earlier this week," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"We presented Prime Minister Netanyahu with specific ideas. We will present the Palestinian delegation with specific American ideas to resurrect the peace negotiations and to try to reinstate in the Israeli-Palestinian dynamic an element of trust which, of course, is necessary for the foundation of that."

Following the Abbas-Erekat

visit, the US is expected to decide whether to dispatch Albright or Ross to the region. US and Israeli officials said here they expect Ross to visit next week. McCurry denied reports that Albright had already decided to visit the region.

Mordechai PA unwilling to foil terrorism, Page 2
PM: No peace without US involvement, Page 4

Albright was engaged yesterday in what Burns described as intensive diplomacy, calling King Hussein as well as the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Qatar, and Tunisia to consult on the current state of affairs and get their feedback.

Also yesterday, Clinton met briefly with Leah Rabin and her son, Yuval. She is currently on a US tour to promote her new book.

Before leaving last night, Abbas and Erekat met in Gaza with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and close aides. Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh held out hopes for progress, but said the Palestinian delegation would not offer proposals of its own, only listen to US proposals.

"Everything has to be discussed and if there is anything reasonable we will discuss it," Abu Rudeineh said. At the core of the US suggestion is expected to be a call to end the violence and stop the building on Har Homa, an equation the Palestinians favor, but Israel opposes. But the Palestinians may accept less for closer US involvement. After meeting with Netanyahu, Clinton dismissed the possibility of a Camp David-style summit now, saying that, at this point, substance is more important than form.

However, the promise of a US proposal to break the deadlock is

precisely the kind of active outside intervention the Palestinians have been seeking, which may enable them to compromise on matters of substance.

"We want the Americans to be involved," Abu Rudeineh said. "The Palestinians have no demands other than implementation of the Oslo agreement. We are not against arbitration. Let the Americans decide what we should do."

He believes the US would not take an automatic pro-Israel position. "The problem is not an Israeli-Palestinian crisis but a regional crisis. That's why I think the Americans are worried," he said.

Abu Rudeineh said that Netanyahu's charges that the PLO had failed to revoke its anti-Israel charter had to be a joke for Clinton. "Before we offered the resolution to the PNC [Palestine National Council], it was discussed and accepted by the US and Israeli governments," he said.

Arafat met on Tuesday in Gaza with General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon and officials of the CIA, according to government sources quoted by Channel 1 last night. Arafat was asked to restore security cooperation with Israel to prevent further Israeli-Palestinian violence.

"The PLO security chiefs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who attended the meeting refused to restore security cooperation until political contacts at all levels, including peace talks, were resumed by Israel," a PA official told Reuters last night.

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said yesterday that the PA has arrested, but not tried, the terror cell involved in the failed attacks in Netzarim and Kfar Darom last week. Ya'alon was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Continued on Page 2

Mossad official to head TAU's Jaffee Center

By STEVE RODAN

A senior Mossad official has been named to head Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. The Jerusalem Post has learned. Uzi Arad, who has held several key positions in the Mossad, in October will take over as the replacement for Jaffee director Ze'ev Maoz, who has been in the post for nearly three years. Tel Aviv University administrators refused to confirm the appointment, an announcement of which is not expected until after Independence Day. Tel Aviv University sources close to the Jaffee Center said the appointment of Arad is an attempt to return to the high-profile status the center enjoyed under the leadership of its late founder, Aharon Yariv, a former chief of Military Intelligence. With Yariv at the helm, the center became known as the home of generals-turned-academics

who wrote numerous policy studies. Under Maoz, a prominent strategist who taught at Haifa and New York universities before coming to Jaffee, the center sought a more academic approach. Maoz stressed solid research over the policy recommendations that had brought the center praise as well as criticism in the late 1980s, when in one of its major studies it advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state. Maoz's academic approach, however, did not appeal to many of Jaffee's researchers. At one point, the center had only two researchers, down from eight, as many left to take up posts at other institutions. The result has been that, while the center held prominent conferences, it has hardly published any studies in the past year. Its most important study, *The Middle East Military Balance*, was delayed for nearly a year. Maoz, university sources said, plans on taking a sabbatical. They stressed that administrators, including Tel Aviv University president Yoram Dinstein, are pleased with his work and did not put pressure on him to leave.

Short of shelf space? 'Judaica' on CD-ROM

By JUDY SEGEL

The 15 million words in the authoritative *Encyclopedia Judaica* have been transformed into a multi-media bonanza on CD-ROM, which adds sound, video, and photos to an updated version of the 16 printed volumes, eight yearbooks, and two decennial volumes. *Judaica Multimedia* (Israel) Ltd., a Jerusalem company established in 1995, has produced the \$599 computer disc and plans to update it regularly, and translate it eventually into Hebrew, French, German, and Spanish. "We regard ourselves as the *Britannica* of the Jewish world," said Gary Liebler, *Judaica Multimedia's* 31-year-old managing director and chief executive

officer, at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday. "A prominent Hebrew University professor who saw the disc said it's a 'turning point in Jewish education.' "As time passes and new technologies appear, we'll be able to update the disc periodically and add many more videos to illustrate the text," Liebler said. Geoffrey Wigoder, who was editor-in-chief of the printed edition, which was published in 1972, serves as disc editor. The company has just signed a deal with Groliers, a major American multimedia firm, which will distribute the PC-compatible CD-ROM among public libraries and universities throughout the US. A feature on the new *Encyclopedia Judaica CD-ROM* will appear on the *Science & Technology Page* on Sunday, April 20.

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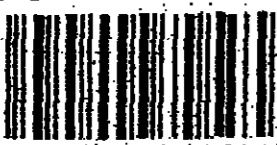
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NEWS

in brief

Israel Theater prizes awarded

The Geshner theater production of *Kfar*, by Yehoshua Sobol, was named best play at the Israel Theater Prize awards ceremony last night at the Noga Theater in Jaffa. The play also garnered the awards for best actor, Israel Demidov, and best director, Yevgeny Arye. Gitta Munte won the best actress award for her role in the Khan Theater production of *Ana Galactia*, and for the second year in a row Shmuel Hasfari was named best playwright, this time for *Shiva*. *Helen Kaye*



Yehoshua Sobol
(Keren)

Fatah wins Bir Zeit student elections

Students affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement narrowly defeated Hamas on Wednesday night in student council elections at Bir Zeit University. Returning to power after last year's Hamas win, Fatah won 22 seats to Hamas's 20, university officials said. Abir Attalla, a 24-year-old economics student and Fatah supporter, said last year's Hamas victory had more to do with internal Fatah problems on campus than the political situation. "We have proven that despite difficulties Fatah is always the answer and will continue to lead the campus," he said. *Reuter*

Bid to ban Bar-On, Hotev-Yishai from panel

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel yesterday asked former Supreme Court justice Meir Shamgar, who heads a panel on finding a new way to appoint the attorney-general, to prevent attorneys Dror Hotev-Yishai and Roni Bar-On from appearing before the committee. "It is not imaginable that the two main suspects in the Bar-On Affair would appear before the honorable committee," the group said in its request. The group also noted that Bar-On and Hotev-Yishai were both questioned in the Bar-On Affair probe, and would appear to have a personal interest in the continuation of the old system of attorney-general selection. *Irini*

Four SLA men wounded in South Lebanon

Lebanese guerrillas set off a roadside bomb yesterday as SLA soldiers were passing in southern Lebanon, wounding four, Lebanese security officials said. They said the bomb was detonated by remote control as a patrol was moving on a dirt road near the village of Qantara. The village is 5 km from the Galilee Panhandle. Two wounded militiamen were airlifted by an Israeli helicopter to Israel for treatment, and the other two were taken to a hospital in Marjayoun, they said. *AP*

Mordechai: PA helps prevent unrest, but not terrorism

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority is demonstrating some willingness to help quell civil unrest in the territories, but maintains its refusal to cooperate with Israel to foil terrorism, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday. The result, Mordechai said, is that the IDF and security services have stepped up their efforts to prevent Islamic terrorist attempts to launch attacks within Israel. "On the Palestinian side, there isn't a significant change in cooperation to foil terrorism," Mordechai told reporters following a meeting with security officials and senior IDF commanders on the growing violence

in the territories. "There is reasonable cooperation between the Palestinian Police and the IDF in the field. I am demanding that the PA operate in all areas to restore the situation to what it had been formerly."

Mordechai said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will convene a meeting next week to discuss the resumption of negotiations with the PA. The defense minister said these preparations must be accompanied by a PA decision to resume its efforts against Palestinian terrorism.

"Our strategic decision is to continue the peace process," Mordechai said. "We have to find new versions to continue this process." Mordechai and senior IDF commanders agreed that the army must contin-

ue with what some of them termed "the soft approach" to Palestinian violence in the territories. The commanders described the violence as being orchestrated by the PA around the territories.

OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan rejected reports that IDF field commanders are complaining that the soft approach to Palestinian violence is endangering their troops.

"We are continuing to foil violence," Dayan said. "I advise that in this situation we operate quietly." Security officials said the IDF will continue to maintain a reinforced presence in the territories to maintain key roads free of violence and ensure life in and around Jewish settlements, particularly

Hebron. At the same time, they said, Israel will seek to ease restrictions of the Israeli closure as a means to avoid increasing pressure within Palestinian society.

Officials said their concern is that Islamic opposition groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad will step up efforts to carry out terrorist attacks during the absence of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. They said the PA Chairman Security Service, together with General Security and police, have managed to foil terrorist attempts to attack Israeli targets over the last two weeks, but did not elaborate.

The officials said they do not have information of concrete plans by the PA's Islamic opposition to launch terrorist attacks.

COMMENT

Placing the blame

By JON IMMANUEL

The controversy over who carried out two suicide-bombing attempts in Gaza last week will not be laid to rest after OC Military Intelligence Maj-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon announced yesterday that the Palestinian Police has arrested two of the organizers.

Will they be quickly tried and sentenced as Israeli intelligence collaborators or as bona fide Islamic Jihad leaders? The answer is important, because most Palestinians believe Israel staged both attacks to make the Palestinians look bad.

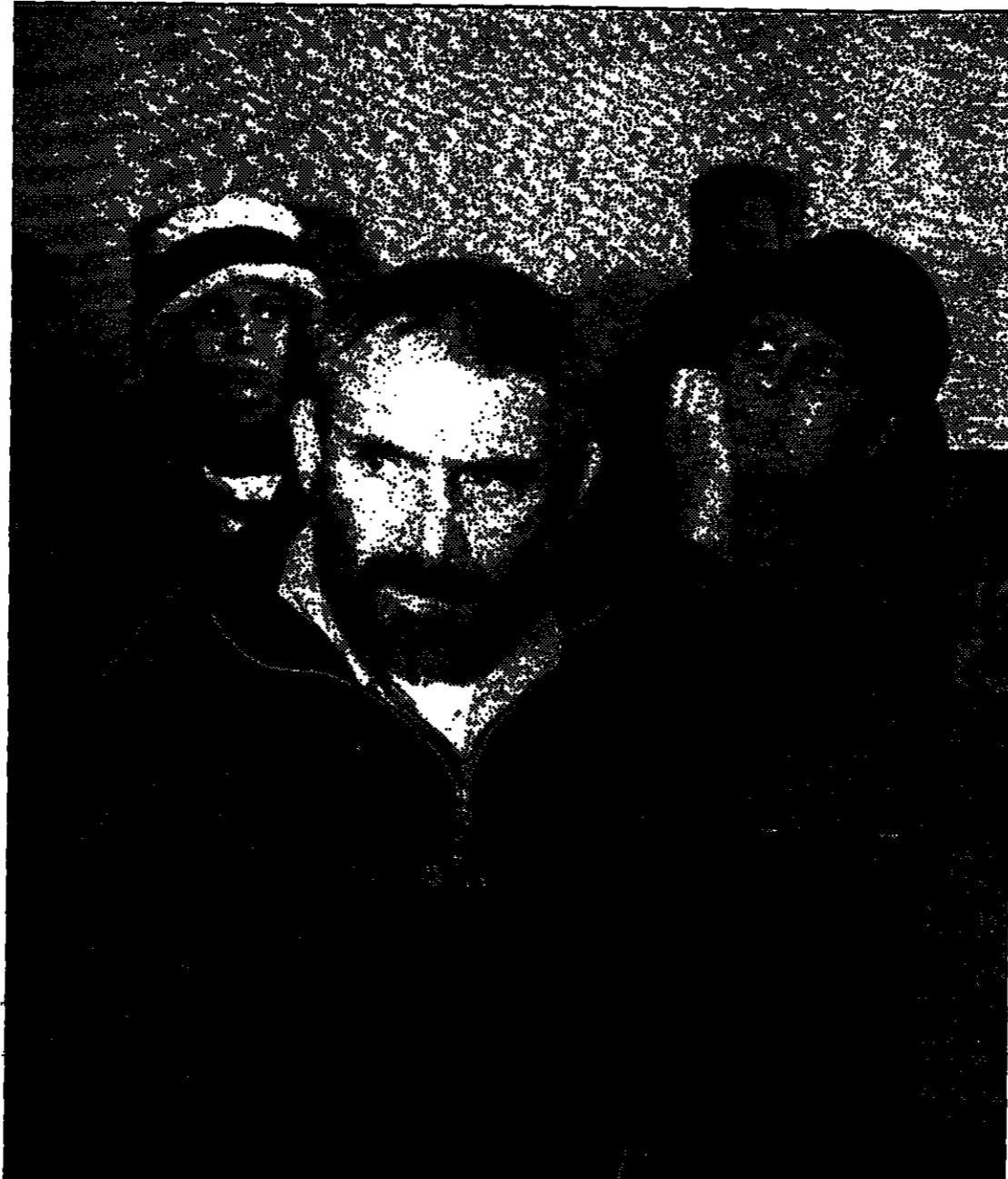
From eyewitnesses who said a rocket was fired from an Israeli jeep at one of the men who exploded, to officials who said two Jabalya youths were duped by Israeli agents, to journalists who said two genuine failed suicide bombings in one day were too improbable – the two incidents have given suicide bombings a bad name.

The unwillingness of Hamas and Islamic Jihad to take responsibility may have something to do with the fact that they failed to kill Israelis, but it also seems to indicate that on the official level there was an understanding that suicide bombings were not part of any green light.

Despite the fact that Palestinian public opinion is so outraged by current Israeli policy that in polls close to a majority justify such attacks on moral grounds, it seems to be in no organization's political interest to carry them out. Both Islamic Jihad and Hamas leaders have said that suicide bombings can no longer serve the anti-Oslo cause and may even revive it by justifying a PA crackdown on Islamic radicals, which will establish the conditions for renewed talks.

What they want is a simmering tension that can break into spontaneous mass violence, for which no one can be held individually responsible, but for which Israel will blame Arafat and from which only Islamic radicalism will benefit.

It is then of crucial importance to Arafat to place the blame where it will do him the most political good. This means finding that the perpetrators were both Islamic Jihad operatives and Israeli agents. It won't be the first time. The two were linked after the January 1995 Beit Lid massacre that killed 21 Israelis. It may be a lie, but it is the only way in today's volatile political situation that he can justify to his people cracking down on what would otherwise be a popular activity.



Dolev resident Yossi Levy appears yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded on suspicion of shooting a Palestinian youth in Harbata on Monday. *(Brian Heavill)*

Dolev man remanded for two days in shooting

Dolev resident Yossi Levy, held on suspicion of shooting and seriously wounding an Arab man after his car was stoned on Monday, was remanded for two days yesterday by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Police had asked Judge Ya'acov Tzaban to remand Levy, a reserve captain, for eight days, but Tzaban said another day or two should be enough to complete the investigation.

The judge said the question in the case is what amount of force is necessary in responding to rock throwing at passing cars.

Police said the suspect was driving through an Arab village, Harbata, and as a result of stonethrowing opened fire in two instances. The first incident

was next to a school, which was closed on Monday, and then again at the exit of the village. The first time he shot six bullets from his car; the second he got out of his car and shot four more bullets down an alleyway. As a result of the shootings, Riyad Hamuda, 18, was seriously wounded.

Police said they need eight days to reenact the shootings, in coordination with the Palestinians, and to interview Hamuda, who is in the hospital in Ramallah.

According to police, Levy did not shoot out of self-defense, which is evident in the fact that Amuda was shot in the back.

The police investigator said an indictment will likely be filed in a few days.

Levy was arrested when police came to his Dolev home a few hours after the shooting after spotting his car with damage from rocks and bullets. Spent cartridges from an M-16 rifle were also found in the car.

Levy's attorney said there is no need to continue to detain his client, since he had already told police everything he could about the incident. Moreover, he said, this is a clear case of self-defense.

Residents of Harbata claim Levy drove into the village and started firing, and that Hamuda had nothing to do with the stonethrowing. Several residents said Levy frequently drove through the village, instead of taking the bypass road. *(Lim)*

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

According to an official briefing, Ya'alon told the committee that the PA is not hitting at the terror infrastructure in the

autonomous areas, but takes intensive and efficient measures against planned attacks when it learns of them.

Ya'alon said Arafat is not acting against the terror infrastructure, both because it could cause a bloodbath among the Palestinians and because he wants to keep the option of violence open in case the diplomatic process does not lead to what he sees as desired results.

He is using a carrot-and-stick policy with the rejectionist Palestinian groups alternately detaining and releasing their activists, Ya'alon said. Ya'alon also said Arafat has not done anything to stop those groups that believed they had been given a "green light" for violence. The rejectionist groups continue to build up a store of arms and explosives, he said.

Ya'alon said that, as long as Israel pursues a policy perceived by the Palestinians as preventing their achieving a Palestinian state – such as building in Jerusalem and the territories – they will see it as a provocation, even though these moves do not contravene the Oslo Accords.

He noted that the violence in response to the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September strengthened Arafat's

standing in the Arab world and in much of the international community.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) concurred, saying Arafat continues to be encouraged by countries like Egypt and Syria. "And, unfortunately, as long as countries like the US aren't sufficiently firm in their demands that Arafat end terror, he will continue to use it."

Ori Orr (Labor) said, however, that the government "must realize that in more places in Judea and Samaria, the intifada would look different and perhaps no longer exist," Ze'evi said.

"If more Israelis were to act like that in more places in Judea and Samaria, the intifada would look different and perhaps no longer exist," Ze'evi said.

Molelet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the yeshiva students in Hebron who shot at Arabs who allegedly attacked them should be an example to others.

"If more Israelis were to act like that in more places in Judea and Samaria, the intifada would look different and perhaps no longer exist," Ze'evi said.

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grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Proposed law would set regulations for parole

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Prisoners sentenced to short terms, or first-time offenders sentenced to between one and five years' imprisonment, could be freed automatically after serving two-thirds of their sentence under a proposed law being circulated by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi among ministers, judges, and academics.

Such prisoners would only have to appear before a parole board if the State Attorney's Office insisted on such a hearing, because it believed the prisoner still constituted a threat to society.

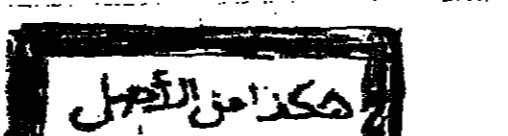
Under the proposal, a special parole committee would have the authority to commute a life sentence to a specified time of no less than 30 years, assuming the prisoner has already served seven years.

The special committee could also release a prisoner whose life sentence had been shortened after two-thirds of the shortened sentence had passed, assuming the prisoner no longer poses a danger.

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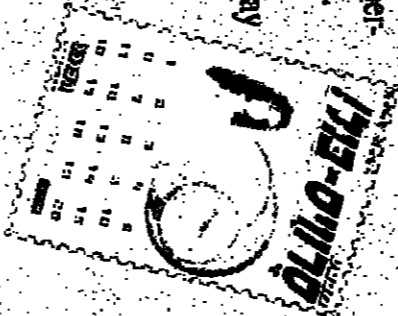
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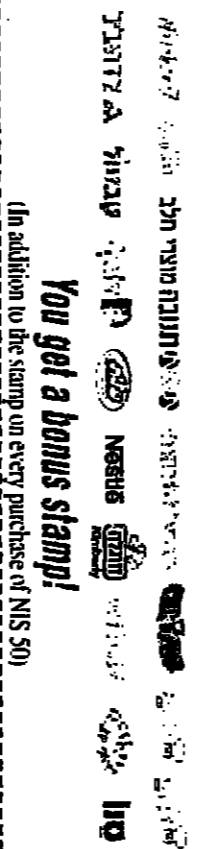
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PM: US must assist peace

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Any agreement between Israel and the Palestinians can only be signed with the assistance of the United States as "a facilitator," most likely at a Camp David-style summit, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"I think [the US's] contribution is absolutely crucial," Netanyahu said before an international group of mayors here for a conference. "This is not a diktat. If they [the Palestinians] want to, they'll take it up; if not then we can continue step by step. But I can tell you confidently that any time we come to close an agreement, we need the assistance of a facilitator - it's not a mediator, it's a facilitator - and I think the United States is the only one who can play this role."

"There are some who think that Europe can play it, some who think that Russia can play it - [but] too many cooks spoil the broth. The one

cook that we need at this stage - and I think there's an agreement on the Palestinian and Arab side in general on this - is the United States. So it's necessary, and I think it might be needed very soon."

EU officials called yesterday for a greater mediating role in the peace process for the 15-nation bloc, Reuters reported.

Netanyahu left last night for The Hague, The Netherlands. He is scheduled to meet today with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, and with The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix.

EU officials said the escalating violence in the region would be on the agenda during Netanyahu's visit to The Netherlands, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

Describing his visit with US President Bill Clinton on Monday as "a useful trip," Netanyahu said the two discussed the issue of terrorism, and how to move the peace process along, including the idea of a Camp David-

style summit.

"The first principle that President Clinton and I discussed and agreed upon is that there must be an absolute condemnation and battle against terrorism on the Palestinian side, because that is the first condition of Oslo, and the first condition of peace."

On the issue of terrorism, Netanyahu repeated that while there can be no peace talks while it continues, Israel does not expect a complete cessation of bombings. "It's possible, by the way, to have on occasion terrorists who are individual aberrations. For example, we had in Jordan an individual Jordanian soldier gun down seven young girls. A terrible tragedy - but it didn't affect our relationship with Jordan because we know that the Jordanian army, and the Jordanian security forces and King Hussein all are doing everything they can to stop terrorism. So we don't look for 100 percent results. But we look for 100 percent effort."

IN CONTEXT / SARAH HONIG

Aloni vents bile at Sarid

If anyone needed a reminder of the raw, unbridled passions which drive Israeli politics and lead to those chasms which even time and new generations cannot bridge, Meretz's former leader Shulamit Aloni served up an acerbic reminder yesterday. It had long been axiomatic in local politics that if there is a rare dull day in the political arena, Aloni can be counted upon to liven it up. She indeed proved her relentless ability to do so even when in

Yaron Dekel yesterday morning, she explicitly compared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Aristotle's tyrant, stressing that he amply possesses all his characteristics, like "seeking to get rid of the country's elite and intellectuals, spying on the populace, fomenting discord between rich and poor, and going to war occasionally..." He distrusts even those closest to him and appears to respect the gods and their rites."

Isn't it a bit extreme to liken the democratically elected prime minister to a dictator? she was asked. But Aloni reminded her interviewers that Hitler, too, was democratically elected. Seconds later she complained bitterly that "those who incited against the previous government and its head are now in power." She admitted that she can't get used to this reality.

But what Aloni does to her rival Sarid takes up much space in her book. She says he and others in Meretz tried to foil the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's attempts to compensate her for losing the Education Ministry during the previous government's term.

"You should know your friends are very active against you," she quoted Rabin as warning her. She said that when Sarid joined Meretz in 1984 she was already cautioned to "beware. He will destroy you. He will destroy the movement. He is a snake in the grass. He is domineering. He is a megalomaniac."

Sarid, according to Aloni's book, "is certain he was destined for greatness and that his wisdom is limitless." She says he contributed "only one single activist to Meretz - someone called Amos from Holon."

Their relations, she attests, fell apart totally in the 1992 Knesset elections, "when he unsuccessfully sought to take over the campaign. The crisis was so great that I think it was then that his destructiveness became full-blown and his venom glands began to fill to overflowing, shooting out great jets of poison."

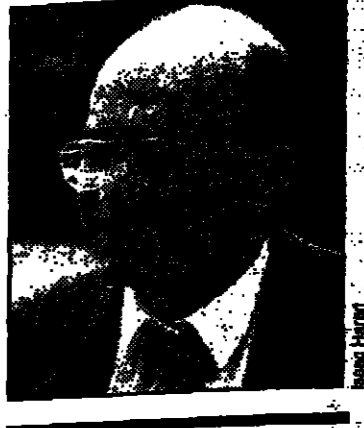
According to her account,

when she tried to get Sarid a portfolio after those elections Rabin reacted with: "What do you want? He'll do to you what he did to me." She asserts that Rabin "referred to the image of a drunkard which Yossi created for him."

Sarid told *The Jerusalem Post* in response that "for many years I've chosen not to react to anything she says. I did tackle some of her claims in a recent book of my own, but in a calmer tone. The only question which needs



Aloni: "He is a snake in the grass. He is domineering. He is a megalomaniac"



Sarid: "If I am such a snake, how could she ask people to vote for me?"

apparent retirement.

With lots of spare time on her hands, she has put together a book aptly titled, *I Couldn't Do It Differently*. In it she settles accounts with no holds barred. Mostly she goes for the jugular of her erstwhile Meretz colleagues, especially the bane of her life, Yossi Sarid, who replaced her as party leader.

But inter alia Aloni swings in all directions. In a promotional interview for the book with Israel Radio's Shelly Yehimovitz and

he asked is that, if I am such a snake, how could she ask people to vote for me? She should have staunchly opposed this, were she honest."

Several other Meretz MKs refused to get drawn into the scuffle. One activist called it "an embarrassment. It's simply something I am ashamed of and I wish it just didn't exist." He pointed to the long Rabin-Peres dispute, "which also produced such riveting literature. If this proves anything, it is that the more things change, the more they stay the same."

13 hurt in Bat Yam gas explosion

Thirteen people were injured, one of them seriously, when leaking cooking gas exploded yesterday in a Bat Yam apartment building. The building itself and the two adjacent buildings were extensively damaged by the blast.

Neighbors had reported the smell of gas coming from the third-floor apartment of the Jersey family, on Rehov Harav Shapira 3, and firefighters were waiting outside for police to arrive in order to break in and check for a leak when the explosion occurred.

The firefighters had closed the main gas valve outside the apartment, but failed to evacuate the building. The Fire and Rescue Service is investigating this lapse in procedure.

The seriously injured victim is an elderly next-door neighbor of the Jerseys.

She suffered head, face, back, and burn injuries.

Another neighbor was moderately injured; the rest of the victims, including three firefighters, were lightly injured, most by concussion.

Two victims remained in Wolfson and Ichilov hospitals last night.

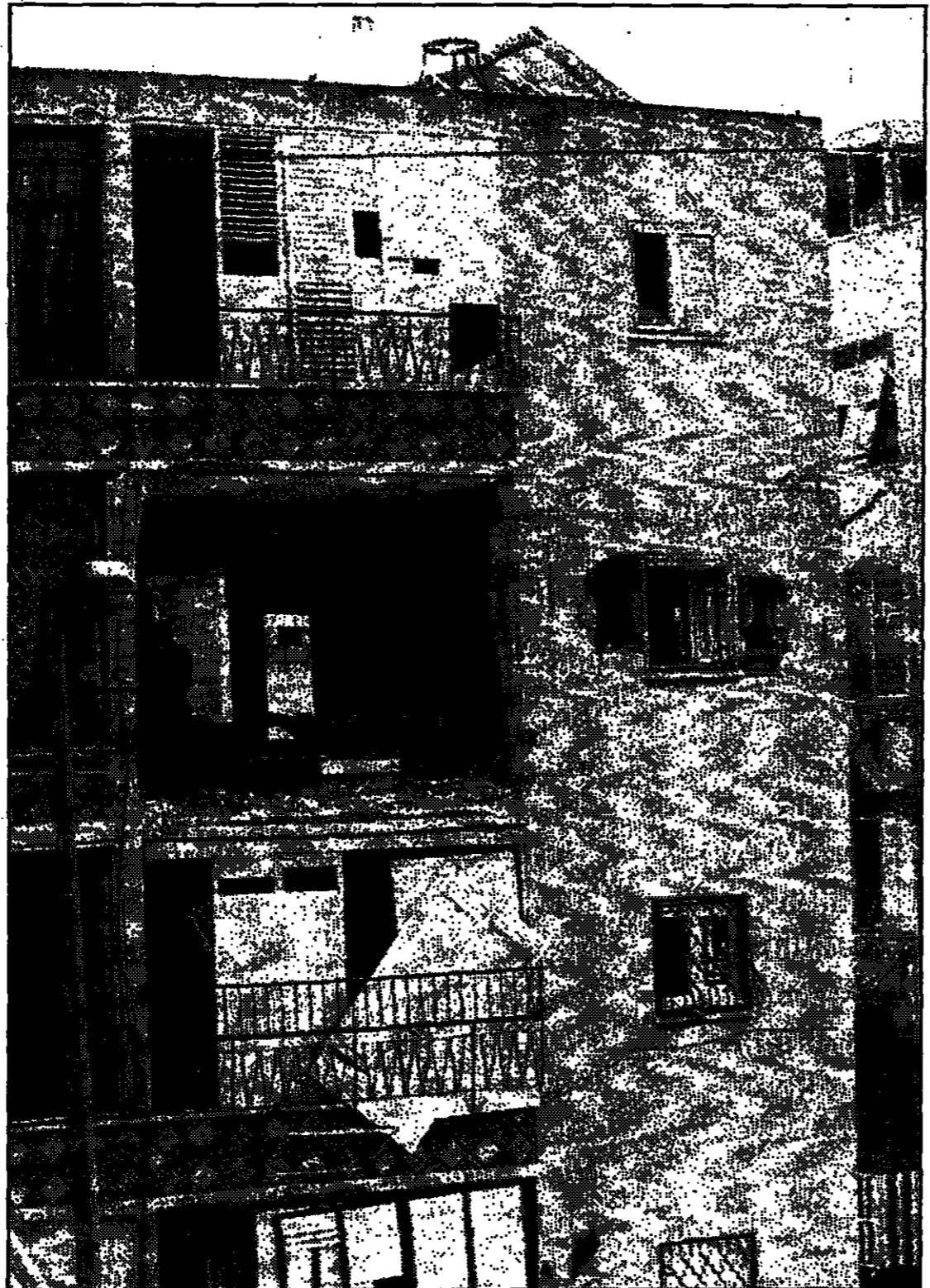
Ruth Kamin, who lives in the next-door building, said she ran to the window after hearing a fierce explosion in the middle of the afternoon.

"I saw everything flying - armchairs came flying out the windows and huge amounts of dust and cement," she said. "I was sure it was a terrorist attack."

Kamin said firefighting, ambulance, and police units arrived quickly, along with many bystanders. "There were injured lying in the street," she said. "It was a terrifying spectacle, just like a horror movie."

An upstairs neighbor of the Jerseys', Eli, arrived home just after the blast. "People were trapped in the building when I got there and the firefighters were still trying to get them out," he said.

"Nobody was in my place, except my two hamsters - and perhaps I'll find them eventually,"



A gaping hole shows the damage left by a gas explosion yesterday to the third-floor apartment of the Jersey family, at Rehov Harav Shapira 3 in Bat Yam.

Maxim Levy claims brother David might run for premier

Foreign Minister David Levy may run for prime minister in the next national elections and Geshet may run its own list for Knesset apart from the Likud, Levi's brother, Lod Mayor and Geshet MK Maxim Levy, said yesterday, adding that the Likud "forgets that it was the development towns that brought it to power."

His remarks took members of his own faction, as well as the Likud, by surprise. Later in the day, Maxim Levy told *The Jerusalem Post* that "what I say is hypothetical. It is possible in theory. This does not mean that we will break away from the Likud or that we will stay together but only that all options are open."

He added that "this had not been discussed with anyone. This is not a Geshet party decision and there have been no factional delibera-

tions about it. This subject was not raised in any private discussion or in any forum and I am definitely not speaking on my brother's behalf. He can very aptly speak for himself and I have the right to express my opinions."

In any case, he went on, "all this is not at all topical now, but only so far as the next elections in over three years are concerned."

The foreign minister, upon his return last night from Turkey, refused to comment.

But a Geshet MK close to him belittled the entire matter saying "it is all a slip of Maxim's tongue. No one is even contemplating any such move." He added that "Maxim had always been on the most extreme fringe in Geshet and opposed partnership with the Likud and peace with [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu]. David didn't take his advice, though he put his brother on the Knesset list and takes care not to

hurt him."

Levy and Netanyahu fended bitterly before last year's elections and Levy was even a candidate for prime minister for a time. But shortly after starting his race, he withdrew and his Geshet Party joined the Likud-Tsomet bloc.

It remains an independent party, however, and plans to field candidates in the next municipal and Histadrut elections.

A number of Geshet sources stressed to the *Post* yesterday that David Levy has no cause for complaint, because Netanyahu is being careful not to raise his ire.

Liav Collins adds

Responding to reports that Levy might run for premier in the next elections, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud) said: "I have always believed and continue to believe that Levy should be prime minister. If he runs I will support him."

THE JEWS OF PIEDMONT & LOMBARDY



From the 14th century onwards, Jews escaping persecution settled in Piedmont, which was part of the Duchy of Savoy, and there is evidence from the 12th century of Jews living in Lombardy, part of the Duchy of Milan.

Led by Prof. Yom Tov Assis of the Dept. of the History of the Jewish People, of the Hebrew University, an 11 day tour will visit Carmagnola, Cherasco, Biella, Vercelli, Casale Monferrate, Saluzzo, Cuneo Mondovi, and the numerous Jewish quarters of Turin and Milan.

Every day there will be a lecture on a different aspect of the study trip and we will visit synagogues, Valentino Castle, the Roman Fortress, the Royal Palace, the Antiquity Museum in Turin, as well as the Hebrew Manuscript collection at the National Library. In Milan, we'll visit the Brera Picture Gallery, Sforza Castle, and the Ambrosian Library.

The English speaking tour, organized by JEWISH HISTORICAL SEMINARS and ZIONTOURS, takes place from Monday, JUNE 16, until Thursday, JUNE 26.

The price of US\$2495 includes return flight by scheduled airline, double-room accommodation in first-class hotels, full daily buffet breakfast, kosher Shabbat dinner and lunch, nine lectures, excellent local guide, all entrance fees, touring in luxury buses, transfers, etc.

Full information and reservations from: Debbie Zuberi, ZIONTOURS, 19 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 91025. Tel. 02-5345191, Fax. 02-5700005, e-mail: zuberi@netvision.net.il Jo-Anne Greenblatt, Tel. 02-5342079. Land arrangements only: US\$1945. Please register early, as our last trips were booked up quickly.

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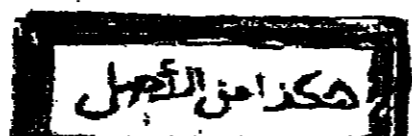
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ANALYSIS

Debt-laden Hadassah faces low morale

By JUDY SEGEL

One of the few things in the current labor dispute that the Hadassah Medical Organization and its two Jerusalem hospitals' 700 physicians agree on is that the staff are not to blame for HMO's NIS 187 million deficit. They disagree on who will make the sacrifices to restore the organization to financial solvency.

"In general, the doctors are right," says HMO Deputy Director-General Shmuel Mor-Yosef. "The accumulated deficit is not their nor Hadassah's fault. It's the result of macro-economic defects in the health system that limit HMO's income and don't reimburse us realistically for what we do."

But HMO's announcement this week that, in two months, the doctors' wage agreement will be changed - cutting gross salaries by 4%, barring replacement of staffers who leave, sending older workers to early retirement, and charging NIS 1.50 more for subsidized meals - aroused shock and anger among staffers. Tuesday's 24-hour warning strike was only the second in nearly two decades, and today, all outpatient clinics will be shut down, even the Sharap (private) clinics where senior physicians earn supplemental income. Doctors stopped teaching medical students on Tuesday.

Jerusalemites, who over the years have become used to high-quality medical care and been spared the incessant labor unrest that has plagued Kupat Holim Clalit and government hospitals in the rest of the country, are not used to "On Strike" signs at Hadassah.

There are many hard feelings, and department heads are saying that morale at Hadassah has reached rock bottom. Some go

farther, privately calling for the resignation or dismissal of HMO Director-General Shmuel Penchas, but fearful of saying so publicly.

After new elections in the union representing nurses and other Hadassah workers next

week, sanctions by the rest of the staff are likely unless a solution is found.

HMO has been overburdened not only by the looming gap between expenses and reimbursement by the health funds, but also by the growing costs of running medical, dental, nursing, and other professional schools while financing medical research (in which it leads the country's medical institutions). "We treat the most difficult cases from around the country as a tertiary university hospital, and our many intensive-care units are very expensive to run," says Mor-Yosef.

The doctors argue, however, that the hospitals are full and that they work hard. "Why shouldn't the government give Hadassah the same aid it gave Kupat Holim Clalit?" asks Prof. Avinoam Reches, a senior neurologist and member of the doctors' committee. Of the NIS 50 million "contribution" by the Treasury to the recovery plan, which must be matched in efficiency measures by the staff, Reches maintains that only NIS 6 million to NIS 8 million will actually go to the hospitals. The rest will go to the professional schools and increases the "capping" (limit of growth in hospital services) from 2% to 2.7%. The Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization will continue to supply HMO with \$30 million a year.

"We offered to give HMO a loan to be repaid later on the same terms given Kupat Holim Clalit by its staff, but management refused to consider it," Reches says. "HMO didn't share its profits with us when the organization was making money. Why should we agree to wage cuts when it's in the red? But we're ready to start negotiations as soon as the cancellation of the wage agreement is revoked."

Clalit strike goes to labor court

A labor court was due last night to discuss Kupat Holim Clalit's request for restraining orders against 8,000 striking administrative and maintenance workers.

If the labor court does not intervene, the strike will enter its fourth day today, further reducing hygienic conditions on the wards, forcing the cancellation of hundred of additional operations and severely reducing services at 1,200 community clinics.

Late Tuesday night, Treasury wage chief Yossi Kasri decided to abrogate the wage agreement signed last month with the union, saying it was "illegal." The workers are demanding higher wages and a boost in seniority, as they were promised by management in 1993.

Union head Prosper Ben-Haim said the workers will hold a protest outside the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem today, and warned that other Clalit employees may join the struggle soon. Judy Segel

Land of Israel Front shores up support

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of the Land of Israel Front, led by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), met yesterday with former chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira at his Jerusalem home as part of the caucus's ongoing contacts with supporters of its position outside the Knesset.

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir also attended the meeting. Shamir criticized those who say the Oslo Accords are in danger, saying: "Oslo is itself the danger. The accords are a catastrophe."

Kleiner called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to put what he said this week during his trip to Washington into action, including continued building in Jerusalem and the territories, and to act on his demand for reciprocity from the Palestinian Authority.

five times and we abide by it five times, then that is breaking the promise Netanyahu made to the voters," Kleiner said.

Kleiner ruled out the possibility of a national unity government in view of the Labor Party's recent decision to rescind its opposition to a Palestinian state.

"A national unity government will lead to giving in," Kleiner said. Shapira told the group that the caucus was important as it serves as the brakes on the Netanyahu government within the Knesset.

The Land of Israel Front is planning a mass event next month on the theme of "Sobering up after Oslo."

Kleiner said it was decided at the meeting to ensure that pressure is brought to bear not only on the prime minister but also on Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.



Zairean soldiers escort Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi as he tries to make his way to his office during a march with thousands of supporters yesterday in Kinshasa. Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko fired Tshisekedi yesterday. (Reuters)

Mobutu fires new PM

By DONNA BRYSON

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - President Mobutu Sese Seko fired his new prime minister yesterday and put an army general in charge of the government as he sought to reassert control over his crumbling country.

Defense Ministry spokesman Leon Kalima announced the move after a morning of fierce clashes in the capital between soldiers and thousands of protesters supporting Etienne Tshisekedi, an opposition activist appointed prime minister one week ago. Soldiers then seized Tshisekedi and drove him off with him.

At the same time, rebels were reported to have broken past Zairean troops and entered the country's second-largest city, Lubumbashi. A car rental agent in the city, Thierry Mwangene, said there were gun battles between loyalist troops and fighters from Laurent Kabila's rebel army, which has seized one-third of the country since September. He said rebels took over the city's radio

station. At rebel headquarters in Goma, eastern Zaire, a commander identifying himself as Mufu said the rebels control Lubumbashi. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

More world news, Page 9

Rebels have captured the eastern third of Zaire in a seven-month campaign to end the nearly 32-year dictatorship of Mobutu, who they accuse of enriching himself at the country's expense. Mobutu spent most of that time in Europe recovering from treatment for prostate cancer, returning only last month to try to reassert control. He appointed Tshisekedi last week to replace a prime minister ousted by parliament for mishandling the rebellion.

The ouster of Tshisekedi and his replacement with a military general were further setbacks to Zaire's long-stalled democratic reforms, which Mobutu initiated in 1991 under mounting pressure at home and abroad. The first democratic elections since Mobutu seized power in 1965 were to have been held this year, but the war and the mounting political chaos make it unlikely they will take place, despite Mobutu's claims to support the idea. In Washington yesterday, the United States increased pressure on Mobutu to quit. US officials want a transitional government, "leading ultimately to elections," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said. "That clearly reflects our view that Mobutuism is about to become a creature of history," McCurry said. Zaire's new prime minister, soon after his appointment, angered much of the parliament by unilaterally scrapping the government, annulling the constitution, and offering cabinet posts to representatives of

Kabila's army. Tshisekedi said his moves were aimed at speeding up democratic reforms and bringing an end to the war, but colleagues said he had overstepped his boundaries and immediately sought to oust him. Government anger toward Tshisekedi grew as supporters of the prime minister marched each day this week, calling for Mobutu's ouster. The standoff culminated yesterday when Tshisekedi led thousands of supporters on a march to the prime minister's office to try to take it over. As he approached the building, flashing a victory sign, hundreds of troops fired tear gas and then bundled Tshisekedi into a car.

"Mr. Tshisekedi was brought to his home for his own safety," the defense ministry said. "He is not under house arrest." The statement cited "the gravity of the situation" for Mobutu's move and said the new prime minister, Gen. Likulia Bolongo, defense minister and former army chief of staff, was "well-suited to calm" things.

Germans brace for terror in Iran trial

BERLIN (AP) - German officials braced for possible terrorist attacks and warned citizens to delay travel to Iran in advance of today's verdict in a trial that examined whether Iran is behind killings of dissidents abroad.

German security sources said the likelihood of attacks by Islamic radicals depended on whether the court accepts the prosecution's contention: that Iran's powerful spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani ordered the 1992 murder in Berlin of an Iranian-Kurdish opposition figure. The accusations made in court late last year prompted angry denials from Tehran and anti-German street protests in Iran.

In Berlin, prosecutors have been assigned armored cars and security has been stepped up around them. Sharpshooters will be posted around the court building, where Iranian opposition groups plan to demonstrate. The trial of five men, an Iranian and four Lebanese, began 3 1/2

years ago. Over 246 days of testimony, it has developed into what's been called the first judicial examination in the West of charges that Iran supports terrorism and has been directly involved in killing dissidents abroad.

Washington has sought to isolate Iran internationally on those grounds, while Germany has pursued what it calls a policy of "critical dialogue" with Tehran, raising issues of terrorism and human rights while still doing business. Although commercial ties have declined recently, Germany is still Iran's largest Western trading partner, with annual trade exceeding DM 2.8 billion, according to the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce in Hamburg.

Shahin Gobadi, a Paris-based spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said the trial should "put this whole issue to rest." If the judges implicate the Iranian regime in the killings, as many observers expect, "it makes it very difficult for Germany to defend that 'critical dialogue' policy anymore."

Gobadi said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann said the government would "review the entire spectrum of relations with Iran, if

necessary," he said. Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday criticized what he termed the "politicization of the case."



Winning author Spanish writer Jorges Semprun, who was awarded the 1997 Jerusalem Prize at a ceremony last night at the Jerusalem International Book Fair, Semprun gave a moving acceptance speech noting the contribution of Jewish tradition to Western culture, and urged Israel to use its imagination and courage to pursue peace with the Palestinians. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

Bar-Ilan students to strike today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Bar-Ilan University students plan to strike today to protest what they termed the university's "ignoring" their demands.

Rabbi Ben-Mordechai, a spokeswoman for the school's Student Council, said the strike centers on three issues: requiring students to pay fees for a variety of university forms; the university's refusal to cut down the length of required English courses from a year to six months, as at other Israeli universities; and the university's continuing unwillingness to discuss restrictions on services offered in the Student Union building.

"Tuition is high enough already," said Ben-Mordechai of the fee situation, which she said has students paying NIS 30-40 for each of various required forms and tests. She said the university "says it has the right to continue to demand these payments."

Ben-Mordechai said she could not understand why the university's required English class had to be a full

year, whereas at other Israeli universities it is limited to one semester. "Why can they manage to prepare the students adequately in half the time at the other institutions?" she asked.

Regarding the Student Union building, Ben-Mordechai said the university consistently refuses to allow services such as an employment office to be set up there. Ben-Mordechai said that while the university owns the building, the students pay for the upkeep of the building and run it, and should be able to offer whatever services they want.

She added that the issue had also been raised during the last strike on campus, last November.

Ben-Mordechai said today's strike would include a demonstration at 8 a.m., and the blocking of entrances. "We won't hesitate to use whatever means necessary" to get the university to address these issues, she said.

A university spokesman said classes would be held as scheduled.

Pesticide behind dolphin deaths

By LIAT COLLINS

As plastic bottles containing pesticide continued to wash up on the country's shore from Kosh Hanikra south to Ashkelon, the Environment Ministry repeated its warning not to open them. The one-liter bottles are white and have the word "Pesticide" imprinted in English on them.

marine pollution department, said the source is probably a boat which lost some of its load in storm weather a couple of weeks ago. Some 400 bottles have been retrieved by the ministry in the past three days but an investigation showed that the bottles being appearing in the North two weeks ago.

"When these substances are concentrated in a certain spot they can cause serious environmental damage," said Adler.

The bodies of a number of dead dolphins washed ashore recently and were found to contain large quantities of substances contained in pesticides, Adler said.

People who come across the bottles should move them to a spot where they cannot be washed out again to sea and contact the ministry at 04-823-1274.

TWA bomb prosecutors want radar tape testimony

NEW YORK (AP) - Federal officials subpoenaed a Florida man to testify about where he obtained a radar tape, which he claims proves TWA Flight 800 was downed by a Navy missile.

Richard Russell, a retired United Airlines pilot, said he was served last Friday with a subpoena that orders him to appear April 16 in US District Court in Brooklyn.

The tape, which supposedly shows a blip that Russell claims is a missile headed toward Flight 800, was seized from Russell's home last month and may be under review by a grand jury. "This is just more harassment from the government," he said.

Russell said the tape was placed in his mailbox and there

was no identification on the envelope and no postmark.

Russell has been collaborating with Pierre Salinger, who insists the jumbo jet was downed by friendly fire. Last month, Salinger claimed a Federal Aviation Administration radar tape of the night of July 17 shows a mysterious blip he claims is evidence the plane was downed by friendly fire.

James Kallstrom, who is heading the criminal probe into the crash, has only commented on the official FAA radar tape, saying the blip was an unarmed Navy plane traveling through the area with a broken transponder.

The Paris-bound 747 exploded and crashed minutes after taking off, killing all 230 people aboard.

Book department advertisement for THE WORLD ALMANAC 1997, including pricing and contact information.

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Seeing nothing

LARRY DERFNER

To watch the way Israelis go about their business these days, you wouldn't know that we are, as Shimon Peres reasonably put it, "on the verge of catastrophe."

It's business as usual in Israel. People are rushing around, babbling into their cellular phones, buying, selling, planning their trips overseas, trying to decide whether to invite the cousins from Nes Ziona to the seder.

The world looks at the Middle East and sees an explosion about to happen. We're sitting here at ground zero, and see nothing.

We're a busy, nouveau-riche society, we've got full lives to live, the holidays are coming up, and all that other stuff is just politics.

Things are snaky with the Palestinians? What else is new? Do you believe this deal for eight nights in London?

To the Israeli middle-class mind, London is much, much closer than the West Bank or Gaza. A cafe in Tel Aviv gets blown up, and we get scared for a little while, then we go back to our preoccupations.

Burning Israeli flags in Khan Yunis, rioting in Hebron? That's over there, on the dark side of the moon.

The Palestinians? Who knows, who cares? They're a rabble, and if they get too far out of line, we'll knock 'em on the head, and they'll calm down.

If the peace process ends,

We're 'on the verge of catastrophe' Surely not

well... the peace process will end. The Palestinians will go back inside their hovels and watch TV, and we'll go to the mall.

And then all the high nucky-mucks will sit down and think up a new plan, and the same old boring blah will go on like always.

Isn't that the way it goes? Nothing sinks in over here. Palestinian despair, rage, desperation - it's a rumor, it's a lie. It's their fault.

We are blameless. We don't want to listen to them, look at them, let their misery slow us down for a minute.

WE'VE picked the right prime minister, that's for sure. He doesn't look like he's worried about anything. He goes to Washington, full of bravado, and Clinton doesn't bite his head off in front of the cameras, so it was a success, right?

The folks at AIPAC cheered him like crazy. The fundamentalist Christians gave him a hallelujah chorus.

What a handsome, charismatic guy we've got for a mouthpiece. Everybody loves us.

We're gone back down in our bunker. The Netanyahu government has done such a good job of reassuring us that we're 100% right and the Palestinians 100% wrong - as if we needed reassuring - that we've gone blind from smugness.

Our reading of the Oslo accords is that they have to give us peace, and we have to give them... as little as we choose.

Two percent of Area C on the first withdrawal? It's our right. We can give them two dumams on the second withdrawal, and two pebbles on the third, if that's what we decide. There's nothing in the Oslo accords that says we can't.

And the only thing the Palestinians can say in return is - okay. They can grumble a little, but in the end they have to swallow it. They can talk about statehood, settlements, Jerusalem, anything they want, but when we say, "no, no and no," they have to accept it. That's the peace process.

We honestly expect them to knuckle under to this. What's more, we expect the world's backing, or at least the US's, which we believe, is all that really counts.

An agreement's an agreement, right? Crumbs for peace - take it, or take a walk.

We are in Lalaland, all by our selves. The leaders of the world are scratching their heads, saying, "What can these Israelis be thinking?" We're thinking that things will work themselves out.

But nobody has a clue as to how - not Clinton, not the Europeans, not even our Great Communicator. "On the verge of catastrophe?" Only in Israel does this sound-like hysteria, in the rest of the world, it goes almost without saying.

If and when catastrophe comes, we'll surely be the last to know.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

Turkish pragmatism

Although crowded off the front pages by the Hebron violence, Foreign Minister David Levy's visit to Ankara this week provided an important indication that isolating Israel diplomatically will not be as easy as some of Israel's adversaries hope.

Despite the continuing international storm over building on Har Homa, clashes in Hebron, the increasingly strident attempts by Yasser Arafat to galvanize Islamic religious opposition to Israel and his own personal misgivings, Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan agreed to meet Levy and discuss economic and military cooperation. Erbakan's hosting of Levy, which should be applauded, speaks volumes about the possibilities of working with a pragmatic Islamist and provides proof that geostrategic realities can override competing ideological considerations.

Most Israelis took little note of Turkey until it suddenly emerged in recent years as both a favored holiday site and an important strategic friend. Turkey's invasion of the Israeli consciousness parallels its recent emergence as a truly modern, democratic and rapidly growing economic force in the region.

To be sure, Turkey has always been a strategically important country, if only because it straddles the border of Europe and Asia on Russia's southern flank. The founders of NATO recognized this and included Turkey as a full member early on. But for many decades it appeared as if the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and Kamal Ataturk's major modernization effort had left Turkey spent, mired in a state of economic backwardness and regular military coups.

All that has changed, and today Turkey has a growing, Europe-oriented, yuppie business class which is pushing the country forward towards integration into the global economy. At the same time, large parts of the country remain more traditionalist, which places Turkey, not unlike other emerging economies, in a delicate transitional state, with a number of fault lines. The growing income gaps between different sectors led many to embrace Islamic-oriented parties. The spread of Islamic influence has become an issue of concern for the military, and given Turkey's history of military takeovers, this has caused some to worry about the health of its democracy.

Turkey's growth has led to renewed interest there in its international role. Many Turks would like to think of Turkey as an integral part of Europe, and hope that it can one day join the EU as a full member. Moreover, the fall of the Soviet Empire has led to the independence of a number of Turkmen countries in Central Asia, and Turkey takes a natural interest in those nations, viewing itself as a sort of cultural "big brother." But on its southern border, Turkey has faced Kurdish opposition and terrorism from

within Iraq and Syria. This led Turkey to pay more attention to events in the Middle East, and was a major catalyst to the development of the strategic closeness between Turkey and Israel.

Erbakan's election victory last summer led to speculation that this strategic cooperation would end. Both before and immediately after his election, Erbakan himself announced that he would downgrade Turkey's ties to Israel and engage in efforts to create an "Islamic NATO." As Syria cheered on, Erbakan paid a highly publicized visit to Iran, concluding a gas supply deal reportedly worth \$23 billion over 20 years. To some it appeared as if a radical Islamic domino effect, operating from North Africa to the Indian sub-continent, was not going to bypass Turkey.

But events since then have proven this prediction wrong. Bowing to demands from business interests and the military, Erbakan's Turkey has signed a \$650 million agreement with Israel Aircraft Industries for the modernization of its air force, purchasing advanced avionic navigation and electronic warfare systems. Its parliament last week approved a major free trade pact with Israel that will go into effect on May 1. And there has even been some initial discussion of possible joint naval maneuvers involving Israel, Turkey and the US Sixth Fleet.

There are important lessons to be learned from this. For one thing, there is some truth to the thesis that a new Middle East can emerge. That is, it is possible for nations in this region, such as Turkey, to develop a large and influential enough group of citizens with a stake in maintaining stability and open trade, with attendant implications vis-a-vis relations with Israel. On the other hand, this sort of development cannot be forced or simply wished into being, and even in the best of cases it will hit rough going. The New Middle East is still far off.

Another item that should be noted is that it is possible for leaders claiming to speak in the name of Islam to choose pragmatic actions. Erbakan's political party did not hide its displeasure at the possibility of his meeting Levy, but the meeting took place in the end. Geostrategic issues run deep and cannot be ignored for long by any leadership. Turkey needs to maintain ties with Israel in order to better deal with Kurdish terrorism; place pressure on Syria, with which it has tensions; prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction to Iraq and Iran, which would also threaten Turkey; and to further fuel its economic growth.

The development of a pact amongst economically growing and politically liberal-minded nations such as Turkey and Israel, and perhaps Jordan as well, will only enhance the positions of each of the countries and of the region as a whole.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN LIMBO

Sir, - I refer to the brief article of April 2 entitled "Poraz: 30+ immigrants should do reserve duty," in which it states that "...Poraz (Shinui) has written to Defense Minister Mordechai asking him to obligate immigrants who arrive here after the age of 30 to do reserve duty. Poraz has discovered that they are currently exempt..."

This is not exactly true. Actually, the IDF refuses to draft such immigrants and also refuses to exempt them from service. I came on aliyah at age 37 and since that time, the IDF has frozen me in the midst of the draft process. Effectively this means that I never served in the IDF, with all the inherent stigmas associated with that. In addition, I have never been exempted or released from service. This requires that I go to the draft office every time I need to leave the country in

order to get a permit to leave. This results in loss of day's work for me, as well as a waste of time for the IDF soldiers who must process the unnecessary paper work. Each time I request a permit, I also request to be drafted. But of course the IDF refuses. In turn, I request to be released (I am now 47, beyond even the age for reserve duty) to save everyone time and effort. This of course is also refused.

I understand that my 30+ colleagues and I are in an IDF database to be invited for a physical examination on or about December 20 every year. The database is updated every year just prior to this date, and in turn my 30+ colleagues and I are moved to the next year. Thus we will remain in IDF limbo forever.

Rehovot.
ELI D. SCHMELL

NEGLECT OF BASIC HYGIENE

Sir, - Unless I am much mistaken, the photograph of Rabbi Yisrael Lau helping to bake "shmurah" matza for Pessah (back page, March 31) also shows that the chief baker standing next to him has a cigarette dangling from his mouth.

If so, may I respectfully suggest to Rabbi Lau that, in his position, it behooves him to serve as an example of matters of public health, just as in the same way, he

is expected to set standards of moral and ethical rectitude. To allow smoking in the presence of food preparation constitutes neglect of the most basic requirements of hygiene. To allow this to be photographed constitutes an astonishing lack of awareness and contempt of public concern regarding the dangers of smoking.

Jerusalem.
KAY WEINBERGER

HORRENDOUS JUDGMENT

Sir, - It is ridiculous to blame Binyamin Netanyahu for the murders of three women in Tel Aviv and seven girls in Naharayim. These crimes were committed by Hamas and a Jordanian soldier.

But it is equally absurd to say the connection between their deaths and the decision to build on Har Homa is not direct. A leader has to know when to pick his fights. Twice since coming to power, Netanyahu has put the lives of all Israelis on the line -

once over a tourist tunnel and once over a hilltop for some housing. Both times, the dangers were obvious. In neither case was the gain worth the risk of a single human life.

Netanyahu continues to underestimate Arab rage, convinced it is not real just because it is manipulated. His horrendous judgment is matched only by Arafat's duplicity. Meanwhile, we go to funerals.

Tel Aviv.
DON FUTTERMAN

DISGUSTING

Sir, - I can think of little which is more disgusting to the eye and the mind than the photo in your issue of March 31 which shows a baker in Bnei Brak producing "shmurah matza" with a cigarette dangling from his lips.

If there is anything more disgusting and unsightly, it is the presence and active participation in the process of the chief rabbi of the country. Surely in the interests of health and hygiene, two essentials of our religion, we are entitled to expect our spiritual leader to demonstrate a far greater degree of circumspection, if not public relations.

DAVID HAMBURGER
Netanya.

POTENTIAL MURDERERS

Sir, - Moshe Arens's article of March 28, "A call for permanent closure," is analytical and logical and based on the assumption that potential murderers (suicide bombers) walking the streets of our cities are from the Palestinian population in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

What about the potential murderers among the Arabs in Israel, who claim benefits of Israeli citizenship, but avow allegiance to Palestinian aspirations? The lone terrorist can easily camouflage himself among Israeli Arabs, or even be one.

What is needed is to get Jews to work. Moshe Arens should apply his keen mind to do just that.

Jerusalem.
MOSHE BRODETZKY

TERRORISM

Sir, - Israel drops its extradition request for Abu Marzook because security sources expressed fear that it will trigger a wave of terrorist attacks. How can this be reconciled with Netanyahu's declaration that Israel will never capitulate to terror?

Netanya.
DR. JACOB ROSIN

The premier's talk show

Binyamin Netanyahu's speeches in the US this week were superb, magnificent, an example of scaled-down Churchillian oratory.

"Magnificent indeed, but it's not war," commented the Russians in the Crimean War, as they viewed the battlefield littered with the bodies of the 600 English heroes of the Light Brigade after their suicidal charge.

Yes, we cheered Netanyahu on as he thundered: "Building will continue on Har Homa! Our building in the settlements will continue!" They were words of brave defiance, indeed. But, alas, it was not war.

The artillery for the real battle for Israel's destiny was being primed at the White House, in Gaza, on the roads of Israel, in the streets of Hebron.

One ominous portent was that two-hour luncheon meeting between Netanyahu and President Clinton at the White House. For an hour and a half, Netanyahu foreign policy adviser Dore Gold held the floor, after which came the 30-minute tete-a-tete between the prime minister and the president.

There were smiles afterwards for the cameras. But something was wrong. At other such midday meetings, Clinton lays on lunch for his guests. True, there was orange juice, lemonade, jugs of water, a bun or two maybe, but no lunch. It was cold fare, and apart from the public bonhomie, a cool occasion.

The weakness in Netanyahu's bold but blemished oratory emerged in an aside, when he said that no decisions had yet been made about the possibility of new settlements.

That is more or less a given. But the reality is that since Netanyahu came to power just under a year ago, the grand total of new housing units built in existing settlements is 10. That's all.

Another cold breeze blew from a well-informed diplomatic source, who gravely warned a writer of this column in Washington: "The situation is very serious. It's an unusually critical time." He implied that the "new ideas" Clinton is formulating will differ somewhat from the words uttered by Netanyahu.

Yes, the president will accept the bulldozers continuing to transform the Jerusalem hilltop of Har Homa into a suburban housing estate. But there will be a strong American bid to ensure that some of the housing there gets set aside for Arabs.

And what about the action on the battlefield itself - never mind the chat going on in Washington? What's happening in Gaza, on the

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

West Bank?

Well, quietly, without any publicity, without any speeches, Yasser Arafat, using Israeli materials, has built a 400m-long quay out to sea. It's the main component of the port he has resolved to construct there.

Two or three ships are already anchored offshore. Who knows what is aboard them?

In Beirut over 15 years ago, a writer of this column saw other ships there unloading cargo for Arafat's army.

To the astonishment of the Lebanese customs officials, the containers held completely dismantled tanks. Like giant crossword puzzles, the tanks were reassembled later on in PLO workshops located in refugee camps.

Are there similar tanks waiting to be unloaded in Gaza? There is

He jets here and there, emits froth and hot air. But real action? Seems he just doesn't dare

No telling, for Israel recently agreed that it would not object to Arafat's completing his airport, or to planes landing and taking off there without Israeli security checks; nor to his building a seaport where there would be no inspection of cargo by Israeli officials.

And what about the hundreds of Palestinian VIPs whose vehicles are not subject to inspection as they travel daily between Gaza and the West Bank? It is no secret that these cars carry weapons and explosives for Arafat's budding armed forces and police.

WHY is this important? Because in the US this week Netanyahu's rigid line about refusing further negotiations until terrorism ceases was less rigid than his fighting talk suggested.

He didn't actually say Arafat must stop all terror, only that he wanted a 100-percent effort from him. Naturally, said the prime minister, there will always be fanatics and suicide bombers. It is understandable that Arafat cannot promise 100-percent success in curbing terror. Who can?

"We will know soon enough whether Arafat really is making a 100-percent effort," was the thrust of his message.

Cynicism apart, wasn't this

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Winter storms have a way of taking people by surprise, such as when they get soaked and it's not even raining. These Seattle motorists were engulfed by waves during a recent severe wind storm. (AP)

POSTSCRIPT

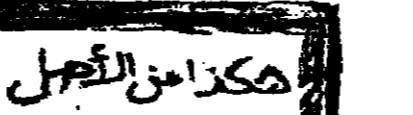
Ahh. Swearing is sometimes good for you and may reduce stress, a University of Florida researcher said.

"We have been told all our lives that swearing is inappropriate, but there are actually times when it may be appropriate," said Kristy Beers, a doctoral candidate in linguistics, adding that it can relieve stress.

Beers said swear words have become more acceptable in daily speech and noted that words that were taboo a decade or two ago are now heard on prime time television.

People tend to take on other people's way of speaking when they're together, including swear words, she said. These words can also be used as a way to identify with a group of people.

In the back of everyone's mind we have rules, but what is more important than the rules is the company we are in. The company we are in overrides the environment and the rules," Beers said.



Were they really guilty?

Julius Rosenberg's handler offers new evidence

By MICHAEL DOBBS

Half a century has passed since Alexander Feklisov held his last clandestine meeting with Julius Rosenberg, but the retired Soviet spy describes the occasion as if it were yesterday.

It was a hot, humid evening in August 1946. Feklisov, then a young intelligence officer attached to the Soviet Consulate in New York, had just been recalled to Moscow. The FBI was closing in on the networks of Soviet agents set up by the Kremlin during World War II from the ranks of committed American Communists. A telegram had arrived from the KGB's Moscow Center to temporarily close down the New York operation.

They met at a Hungarian restaurant on Manhattan's Upper West Side and then, as night fell, went for a walk along Riverside Drive. They watched the pleasure boats steaming up the Hudson River, lights twinkling from their porches. Feklisov remembers sitting on a bench with Rosenberg and giving his American friend final instructions on how to resume contact with his Soviet handlers. He handed over \$1,000 to cover possible emergencies.

At the end of the meeting, the two men stood and embraced before going their separate ways. Feklisov went on to have a distinguished career in foreign intelligence, including a posting to Washington as KGB resident in the early 1960s. Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel, were executed in 1953 after a sensational treason trial at which they were accused of giving Soviet Russia the secret of the atom bomb.

Flash forward 50 years. Feklisov returns to New York in late August to help clarify one of the most divisive and enduring controversies in modern American history. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg went to their

mate personal knowledge of the Rosenberg case. Julius was a great sympathizer of the Soviet Union. There were others who also believed in communism, but were unwilling to fight. Julius was a true revolutionary, who was willing to sacrifice himself for his beliefs.

In interviews with *The Washington Post* and a cable TV channel based in Bethesda, Maryland, Feklisov said he held a series of at least 50 meetings in New York with Rosenberg from 1943 to 1946. He credited Rosenberg with helping to organize an important industrial espionage ring for Moscow and handing over top secret information on military electronics. At the same time, however, he insisted that Ethel Rosenberg never had any direct contact with Soviet intelligence, but conceded that she was probably "aware" of her husband's activities.

Feklisov, who is known in the United States for his role as a behind-the-scenes intermediary between the KGB and the White House during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, said that Julius Rosenberg played only a peripheral role in Soviet atomic espionage. He described as absurd the claim of sentencing judge Irving Kaufman that the Rosenbergs had "altered the course of human history" through their treachery by putting the atomic bomb into the hands of the Soviets.

Feklisov's assertions about the nature of the espionage role played by Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are consistent with recently released top-secret American intercepts of Soviet intelligence cables between New York and Moscow from the early 1940s. The so-called Venona intercepts include repeated references to Julius Rosenberg's industrial espionage but suggest only peripheral involvement in atomic spying.

The intercepts show that the Soviets had at least three key informants in the US atomic energy program, known as the



Ethel and Julius Rosenberg arrive at their espionage trial in New York in 1951.

ordinary emotions aroused by the case that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover dubbed "the crime of the century." Executed by electric chair in Sing Sing at sundown on June 19, 1953, the Rosenbergs rapidly became a potent political symbol. To the left, they were martyrs of the McCarthyite "hysteria" then sweeping America. To the right, they were leaders of a Communist fifth column that had betrayed America from within.

The controversy over the government's handling of the case was heightened by the severity of the punishment.

The double death sentence for husband and wife was unprecedented, at least in a federal court, and meant that two young children had to grow up as orphans. It provoked a storm of protest all around the world, with France condemning the US for "barbarism" and Pope Pius XII issuing a personal appeal for clemency.

Both men served as consultants for the forthcoming program and plan to publish competing assessments of Feklisov's revelations in this week's editions of their respective ideological house organs, the *New Republic* and *The Nation*. But the fact remains that the differences between the two historians are now largely academic.

"I accept that Julius Rosenberg was involved in espionage," said Schneir, contradicting one of the central points of his 1968 book, *Invitation to an Inquest*, which he wrote with his wife, Miriam.

The Rosenberg children, Michael and Robert Meeropol, who have repeatedly maintained that their parents are innocent of espionage, declined an invitation to meet with Feklisov last September during his two-week visit in the US.

Feklisov is mentioned several times in the Venona intercepts under the code name "Calistras" as one of several Soviet agents working under Kvasnikov's direction. The State Department was presumably aware of this background when it approved a visa for Feklisov to work as a counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington from 1962 to 1964. The position was a cover for his real job as head of Soviet intelligence in the US.

During a 1989 seminar in Moscow on the Cuban missile crisis, Feklisov identified himself publicly as the notorious "Mr. X," who said he served as the back channel between the Kremlin and the White House. His American contact was ABC News diplomat-journalist John Scali, who later served as US ambassador to

"There is no longer any debate among serious people that Julius Rosenberg was a spy for the Soviet Union. [At the same time] it is clear that the Rosenbergs did not give the Soviets the 'secret' of the bomb, and they should not have been executed."

—Ronald Radosh

WITHOUT access to the KGB files on the Rosenberg case, it is difficult to corroborate the details of Feklisov's story. While the FBI has been aware for some time that Feklisov worked for Soviet intelligence in New York during World War II, the precise nature of his activities during the war has remained a mystery to the federal government until now.

Partial confirmation of Feklisov's relationship with Rosenberg is contained in the FBI's own files. In prison, Julius Rosenberg shared a cell with an FBI informer named Jerome Tartakow who succeeded in gaining his confidence. According to FBI records, Rosenberg told Tartakow that he had meetings with two Russians, whom he named as Henry and Alex.

With hindsight, it now seems likely that these two names refer to Semenov, whose code name was Henry, and Feklisov, who says he was known to Rosenberg by his

United Nations.

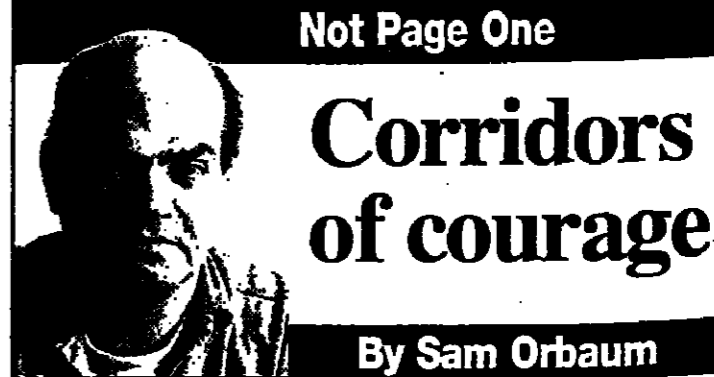
Feklisov's account of Ethel Rosenberg's minimal involvement in her husband's work conforms with what is known from the Venona documents.

Schneir, the left-wing historian, says he was unable to catch Feklisov out in a significant error of fact when he interviewed him in September. He adds, however, that Feklisov's obvious familiarity with the literature of the case and the Venona documents make it impossible to reach a "definite conclusion" on the authenticity of his story.

"We could not endorse it, but we could not refute it. We had to admit defeat," Schneir said.

Schneir's literary rival, Radosh, is also impressed by the cumulative weight of Feklisov's testimony. "He is the genuine article," Radosh said. "I do not think that someone could make up all those minute details."

(The Washington Post)



Not Page One Corridors of courage

By Sam Orbaum

He's a tough fellow, this Ben. A fighter, the sort of guy who inspires bravery without trying. In the army, myths are made of men like Ben. 100-kilo hulks fortified by challenge, oblivious to pain.

The thing is, Big Ben is a tiny toddler. He's a scrawny three-year-old who weighs in at eight kilos.

Ben is battling to stay alive, and it's a battle he wasn't expected to win, but now, it looks like he will. He has the most severe form of juvenile leukemia. He's been through so much in the second half of his life that by now he takes it, well, like a man. Tough fellow, this Ben.

He's not the only one. Terrible, terrible stories are told in every room on the third floor of the Hadassah Mother and Child Center, in Jerusalem.

Pray you never have to go to the third floor: this is where the most desperately ill children stay, for weeks and months—sometimes for the rest of their brief lives.

Hairless, puffy youngsters stricken with cancer; babies who've never been home; adolescents whose biggest health concern should be acne, rather than transplants.

Yet, for a place as awful as this, it is not morbid. It is tranquil, somehow even pleasant. It is a hospital exactly as one can only dream a hospital might be: every single detail, from the architecture to the uniforms to the mezzorot on the doors, is marvelously enlightened, proving that hospital healing can be humane.

For example, the uniforms: there aren't any. "We felt that traditional whites would be distressing to children, so we wear colorful 'civilian' clothes," explained Simha Dvir, head nurse of the high-stress third-floor department.

The center is built to look like a giant playroom, complete with a model train chugging silently around the lobby walls.

The decor is every inch vivacious and playful: even the ubiquitous name plaques are cute; the mezzorot look like toy rockets.

The geniuses who designed this place were smart enough to realize that children lying on their backs shouldn't have to stare at blank ceilings; there are railroad patterns over some beds, animal decals over others.

It's a simple concept that, somehow, not every hospital builder seems to understand: healing must involve both body and soul.

In every possible way, Hadassah's new center understands this. "We call it 'psycho-logical healing,' and a healthy environment is definitely a part of it," Dvir said. "Our staff has a humane, personal attitude. We treat not just the illness, or the child, but the entire family."

Parents talk about the hospital and its staffers with praise and wonderment. It seems impossible to find a negative word: no bitterness, aggravation, irritation—not even about such givens as bureaucracy or boredom.

"Even the cleaners," Ori's mother said, "they clean the place like it's their own home."

Ori's parents were robbed of

the joy of taking him home, to the room they lovingly outfitted for this, their first baby. Instead, they brought the room to him, surrounding his hospital bed with the typical trappings most newborns grow up at home with. The hospital permits, even encourages this.

Ori has been here for all of his six weeks, and will be for many months to come. He was born with a rare genetic condition that afflicts one or two babies a year in Israel: his body produces too little insulin. Ori's prognosis is good: he will, it seems, go home some day.

UDI has been here about the same length of time, but he's nine years old. An active, bright, athletic boy, he was racing around a schoolyard one day, dying of cancer the next. "We almost lost him," said his mother, her face a harrowed mix of beauty and distress. She was still coping with the shock, the sudden discovery that Udi had lymphoma.

Pray you never have to go to the third floor. This is where the most desperately ill children stay.

Udi is stoic, another tough cookie. He's old enough to understand. He speaks calmly about his cruel fate, a gritty kid accepting that he has been chosen to suffer. He will have to forgo a chunk of his carefree childhood, but he'll make it. He will make it.

There are 34 youngsters on the third floor the day I visited, 13 of them with cancer. Most are too listless to play. Some watch TV with weary disinterest; one tucks fingers in IV tube as if it's a plaything.

Ben is beyond crying, his mother said, but not she; when she feels a weep welling up in her, she steps out into the corridor, away from Ben. "He must see that I am confident, not afraid."

Forgive her the occasional cry. She is a woman of immense courage, but she's not had it easy. She has rarely left Ben's side for 15 months. Fifteen months!

He arrived at the Mother and Child Center 10 months ago "in terrible condition, with so little hope." He was in isolation for 18 weeks, he has suffered horrible side effects, weathered a bone-marrow transplant, withered to sickly thinness. And he's not even old enough for kindergarten.

Is that not enough for one mother? She hasn't been to her Ramat Gan home for almost a year. She has a year-old son who doesn't know her. And she should be in bed herself: she was due any minute to give birth again. Her third baby will also be motherless, until Ben pulls through, which may take many months more.

Forgive her. Sometimes, even the courageous cry.

Feklisov described as absurd the claim of sentencing judge Irving Kaufman that the Rosenbergs had "altered the course of human history" through their treachery by putting the atomic bomb into the hands of the Soviets.

deaths insisting that they were the victims of a government conspiracy. Up until now, Moscow has steadfastly denied their guilt and has refused to make public any of the intelligence files dealing with the case. For generations of left-wing Americans, the innocence of the Rosenbergs was an article of political faith.

Aged 82 and frail, Feklisov again sat on a bench on Riverside Drive, near where he said his final goodbye to Rosenberg. He said the time has come to publicly reveal what he knows about the Rosenberg affair, despite what he described as the objections of Russian intelligence chiefs. A lifelong Communist, Feklisov wants the world to know that Julius Rosenberg was a "hero" who helped the Soviet Union in its hour of need in World War II and was later abandoned by his Soviet spy masters.

"My morality does not allow me to keep silent," said Feklisov, saying he is the only Soviet intelligence officer still alive with ini-

Manhattan project, who had no connection to the Rosenbergs. The most important was a nuclear scientist, Klaus Fuchs, who was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment by a British court in 1949.

Feklisov said the decision to tell his side of the Rosenberg story is the result of years of personal agonizing and arguments with his superiors in the foreign intelligence arm of the KGB. In 1993, he began cooperating with a researcher at the USA Institute in Moscow, Svetlana Chervonnaya, and an independent American filmmaker, Ed Wierzbowski, who have investigated other Cold War spy cases.

Last August, Wierzbowski's company, Global American Television, arranged for Feklisov to visit the US to work on a documentary film about the Rosenberg case which is scheduled to be aired soon.

With the Cold War over and the Soviet Union consigned to history, it is easy to forget the extror-

book department

The Cambridge Illustrated History of BRITISH THEATRE

by Simon Trussler

Lavishly illustrated in the best tradition of the Cambridge University Press, this 404 pp. volume presents a social and cultural history of Britain as much as a description of actors, directors, designers and authors.

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CAVEAT EMPTORI!

Consumer guide

By RUTHIE BLUM

Tools for Consumer Protection is a booklet just released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The 28-page comprehensive guide — produced by the internal trade department of the ministry — provides an outline of sections of the Consumer Protection Act and the Supervision of Goods and Services Law in language you don't have to be a lawyer to understand.

"Dear Consumers," commences the letter (in Hebrew) from Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky at the beginning of the brochure. "The aim of this booklet is to equip you with the tools at your disposal with which to guarantee competition in the Israeli market, fair trade, and the upholding of your rights."

The letter goes on to stress the importance of consumer vigilance in making sure our rights are upheld. Chapters of the book include subjects most relevant to daily consumerism: pricing, labeling, purchasing from peddlers, class-action suits, advertising aimed at minors, small-claims court procedures, and information on the Israel Consumer Council.

Though the department of internal trade hopes to receive a budget to publish this booklet in other languages (plans are under way for Russian and Arabic), so far it exists only in Hebrew. However, I highly recommend obtaining a copy, even to those whose Hebrew is weak.

The last chapter lists the names, addresses and telephone numbers of

relevant ministries and other offices dealing with every form of consumer problem, question, complaint or simply information. These are not only useful when you need to lodge a complaint, but also as a general consumer address book for a gamut of services, ranging from building permits (Housing Ministry) to burials (Religious Affairs Ministry).

Scattered throughout the booklet — at the bottom of every other page or so — are halachic and biblical consumer protection laws. These are quoted on computerized pieces of "old parchment," a gimmick which may sound trite but which actually adds a little pizzazz to the otherwise technical information provided in the booklet. These biblical references also serve to remind us whence our current laws stem.

Internal trade department director Aharon Cohen urges the public to make use of the new booklet, which is distributed free of charge upon request.

Contact the nearest district office of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, at the following locations: 30 Agron Street, Jerusalem, (02) 622-0281-2; 8 King David Street, Jerusalem, (02) 622-0617; 76 Rehov Mazeh, Tel Aviv, (03) 560 4611; 82 Rehov Ha'atzmaut, Haifa, (04) 867-1669; 31 Sderot Shazar, Beersheba, (07) 628-8771.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

FLAIR

All roses this summer

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



It's roses all the way in fashion's print scene, where scattered roses dominate the florals.

Roses also feature strongly in appliques and in lace patterns, and thus it was no surprise to see them gracing the new spring/summer Castro collection.

Not everyone likes prints, and Castro designers Tzafra Perlmutter and Dahlia Kapuzza have taken this into account, providing a wide selection of monochromes and bi- and tri-colored dresses.

The Castro palette is full of fruit, ice-cream, jewel and jungle colors as well as those of sea, sand and sky, plus the ever-popular black.

While the mini seems to have become a permanent fashion fixture, women with overdeveloped thighs; knobby knees and/or varicose veins can take heart in the knowledge that maxis have returned with a bang.

The maxi dress will be no less ubiquitous than the mini in both its slim and wide-skirted versions.

The only drawback is the bodice, which more often than not is borrowed from lingerie concepts and features a very low neckline suspended from spaghetti straps.

This is great for anyone with flawless skin and no spare flesh, but far from flattering to the overdressed.

The best solution is a bolero jacket often available in matching or contrast fabrics.

Castro's summer pants suits are more likely to feature an elongated double-breasted vest than a jacket.

Although the vest offers more cover than the slip dresses, it would still be deemed immodest in Orthodox circles.

It does seem a shame that with the exception of a range of softly tailored suits, a company with the scope of Castro has not made sufficient provision for the fashion needs of this sector of the population.

Some of the designs are obviously Hollywood-inspired, but the glamour of the runway garment is occasionally diminished on the rack.

Fabrics are largely synthetic and not overly pleasant to the touch, but this is the case with so many clothes currently sold in Israel.

The good news is that Castro has expanded its range of sizes to beyond sylph-like proportions.

It has also added a younger, casual sporty line being marketed as Castro Girl and has just ventured into the manufacture of swimwear.

The most expensive garment in the collection is priced at NIS 399. Most are under NIS 200.



Castro's '97 summer collection: Maxi dresses make a comeback.



The season's most popular print — roses; summer pants suits feature double-breasted vests.

Hong Kong's Sam is tailor-made for success

By MISHI SARAN

When the last of Hong Kong's British forces pack up their meticulously stitched uniforms, smoking jackets and waistcoats, they will leave behind the Bombay-born tailor who created much of their sartorial elegance.

But the savvy clothier, groomed on London's Savile Row, is not perturbed at the prospect of losing a chunk of his client base when more than a century and a half of British rule draws to a close and the British garrison departs on June 30.

"We will continue via mail order," the dapper 49-year-old Mann Melwani, better known as Sam, says, a trifle starchyly.

It is razor-sharp business acumen combined with a keen sense of history that has made Melwani something of a legend in Hong Kong tailoring circles. The tailor, his hair now flecked with grey, has seen his 20-year-old gamble to clothe the colony's British soldiers pay off handsomely, though he remains tight-lipped over his annual profit.

His enthusiasm for the topic is unmistakable. Single slits in the backs of jackets, Melwani points out, were developed by Napoleon who needed space for his sword hilt to poke through the fabric at the back. "He also ordered a line of buttons on the sleeves of the soldiers' coats so they wouldn't keep rubbing their dripping noses," he says.

Melwani's destiny changed when his father fled Bombay with his wife and three children in 1952, escaping

the bloody aftermath of India's violent partition. Four years later, the family had their own tailoring business in Hong Kong. The teenaged Melwani watched at his father's elbow, helping in the shop between school hours and homework. "My father started his own business in 1957, mostly [making clothes] for army officers, soldiers, and the local police," Melwani says, noting his late father picked his nickname "Sam" for easy pronunciation. Sam junior continues the tradition.

Melwani takes the credit for expanding the business beyond the locally based armed forces. Melwani's skill and reputation — the news spread entirely by word of mouth, he insists — attracts an eclectic string of politicians, generals and stars, on flying visits to the colony, keeping his staff of 55 frantically busy. "I have built an empire," Melwani says matter-of-factly.

A glance at the shop walls, plastered with carefully laminated pictures of customers from Margaret Thatcher to Oliver North (along with signed letters of gratitude) shows Melwani's scissors have indeed developed a long reach.

"The quickest suit I made took one hour and 52 minutes, and it was for Prince Charles, who was raising money for a charity," Melwani said. No Chinese soldiers or generals from the People's Liberation Army have approached Sam's Tailor for a fitting, but they can be assured of a warm welcome.

"If they come to us," Melwani says, "we would be happy to make clothes for them." (Reuters)

OFFERS

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LARGE BARBIE HOUSE — NIS 125 o.b.o.; electric ironer (mangle), NIS 200 o.b.o. 02-950-6619, NS.

VISUAL POCKET GUIDE — for Word Perfect 6.1, free, 03-676-0214.

OWNERSHIP OF BEZEKO TELEPHONE LINE — 03-934-6877.

MEN'S SILK SUIT — beige, large size, made by Boss, NIS 150. 04-834-3844.

TABLET CUTTER — English line, 174x180, NIS 75; Runpole of Old Bailey, NIS 25. 04-824-2267.

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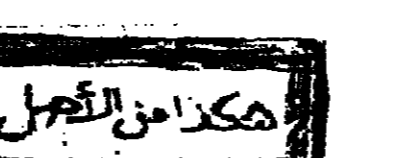
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Australia financial scandal PM may lose Senate

By ALAN THORNHILL

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister John Howard jeopardized his government's control of Parliament yesterday by pressing the deputy president of the Senate to resign over a financial scandal.

Howard led his coalition to a landslide 40-seat victory in the lower House of Representatives in general elections in March 1996.

But he failed to win a clear majority in its upper house, the Senate.

However, after the election Howard controlled the Senate by persuading a disgruntled member of the Labor opposition, Mal Colston, to resign from his party to become an independent and generally support the government.

Howard won Colston's heart by persuading

government senators to support the renegade senator's bid to retain his former post as deputy president of the senate.

This ploy allowed the government to push controversial legislation, including tough industrial relations laws and its plan to sell one-third of the nationally owned telecommunications carrier, Telstra, through Parliament.

These were big victories for Howard's conservative governing coalition in its first year.

But their luck ran out in recent weeks when Labor sought its revenge by pressing for details of Colston's lavish travel allowance and car usage claims to be made public.

Colston admitted his claims in these areas had exceeded his entitlements — in some instances he claimed to be in two cities at once.

But he blamed his staff for what he said were

bookkeeping mistakes.

However, a former staffer blew the whistle Tuesday evening, writing to the Senate president to say that Colston had always complied his travel claims himself.

The whole matter has now been referred to the federal police, and Colston says he is considering whether to resign.

The constitution requires that he be replaced by a Labor senator, thus again forcing the government to negotiate with Labor, the Greens or the Australian Democrats to pass any legislation.

If Colston resigns from the Senate or is forced out, he would lose a valuable pension.

If he simply steps down from the deputy presidency of the Senate, Howard's government would have to find new ways of persuading him to keep voting for their legislation.



Mayor Richard Riordan celebrates his re-election Tuesday night in Los Angeles. (AP)

Riordan wins another term as LA mayor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a battle for City Hall that pitted a former 1960s radical against an Establishment mayor, the voters chose Richard Riordan as Los Angeles mayor by a nearly 2-1 margin Tuesday.

Riordan had 217,575 votes, or 62.1 percent, to Hayden's 118,700, or 33.8%. There were three other candidates on the ballot.

Painting the same sunny picture of Los Angeles that he had offered during his campaign, Riordan declared in a victory speech: "Together, we have turned Los Angeles around. We've restored confidence in our city. We've made our city a livable L.A."

Hayden's strongest support came from the black community. But that bloc was eclipsed for the first time by Hispanics, who solidly favored Riordan, according to *Los Angeles Times* exit polls.

It appeared the election generated even less attention than city officials had predicted. One hour before polls closed, only 19.6 percent of eligible voters had cast ballots.

The pugnacious Hayden added some life to what would have been an even more lackluster race.

The campaign came just months after memories of his role at the 1968 Democratic National Convention were renewed by his appearance at the 1996 convention in the same city.

Hayden all but conceded about 2 1/2 hours after the polls closed, offering to give the mayor suggestions on his second term.

"We have deep differences and some may think they're unbridgeable," he said. "And be that as it may, I respect the job he has to do now. He has to govern the city if he prevails tonight."

At a news conference Hayden thanked supporters who had joined him "in trying to visualize and dream a dream

of a livable L.A."

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Major, Thatcher back 'sleaze' MP

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major, whose Conservative Party's re-election campaign has been overshadowed by charges of sleaze, yesterday gave guarded support to a legislator accused of corruption.

Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher also backed the controversial legislator, Neil Hamilton.

"He is a good candidate and nobody is perfect," Lady Thatcher, prime minister from 1979 to 1990, told reporters following her on a campaign trip to the southern English town of Dorset.



On Tuesday night, local party activists in Hamilton's wealthy parliamentary constituency, Tatton in northwest England, endorsed his nomination for the May 1 national election by a 2-1 majority.

Hamilton, one of 10 Conservative legislators under investigation, is accused of taking money from businessmen in return for raising issues in Parliament.

The Tatton party's decision meant the corruption issue will likely run through the campaign, and was widely seen as a blow for Major who is battling to close a huge lead in opinion polls by the Labor Party.

British Prime Minister John Major greets supporters in Brecon, Wales, yesterday during a campaign visit. (Reuters)

Major said the constituency had the right to select Hamilton, adding, "I hope people will vote for him."

"Only if and when he is shown to have misbehaved — then he should face the House of

Commons, and the House of Commons should decide how to respond," Major said at a news conference at party headquarters in London.

Opposition parties stepped aside in Tatton, leaving Hamilton in a straight fight with

a former "BBC war" correspondent, Martin Bell, running on an anti-corruption ticket. Lady Thatcher, 71, declaring she was "fighting fit," brushed aside sleaze as a campaign issue.

"This (election) is about the way the Tory party has trans-

formed Britain and got rid of the unions," said Lady Thatcher.

The Conservatives have been in power since Lady Thatcher defeated a Labor government in 1979 and implemented laws that emasculated Britain's then-powerful trade unions.

Germans oppose Kohl re-election

BONN (Reuters) — A clear majority of German voters hope Chancellor Helmut Kohl will not be elected for a fifth term in next year's general election, but expect it to happen anyway, an opinion poll released yesterday indicated.

Kohl, 67, last week put an end to months of speculation by announcing that he planned to run again in the election, due in September or October 1998.

The poll by Infratest Burke Berlin, released ahead of publication in today's weekly *Die Zeit*, said 57 percent of Germans did not want Kohl re-elected, but 59% believed he would win.

Some 63% saw Kohl as the strongest leadership figure, followed

by Lower Saxony premier Gerhard Schroeder of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) with 20% and SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine with 7%.

Schroeder and Lafontaine are the front runners to lead the SPD's challenge against Kohl, but the party insists it will not decide on a candidate for chancellor until next year.

Even SPD supporters gave Kohl 48%, ahead of Schroeder with 32% and Lafontaine with 10%.

However, German voters have no power to elect their head of government directly.

The popularity of Kohl's center-right coalition has slid in recent months, under pressure from high unemployment and its difficulty in implementing tax and pensions reforms.

Iraqi plane defies UN on pilgrimage

JEDDA (AP, Reuters) — An Iraqi passenger jet carrying pilgrims flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday in defiance of UN sanctions imposed in 1990.

The Iraqi Airways jet with 104 people aboard landed at King Abdulaziz International Airport here and immediately was surrounded by security forces, an airport worker said.

He said the plane was required to park in an isolated area of the airport. Planes carrying pilgrims usually pull into a special terminal.

A senior official at the airport earlier said the Iraqi plane would be received and the pilgrims welcomed.

"Officials at Jeddah airport have no instructions or orders to return any plane carrying pilgrims from Iraq or any other country," he said. "Our explicit instructions are to provide all means of comfort to all pilgrims."

The jet took off from the Rashid

Air Base, which is 15 kilometers south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, at 10:20 a.m. It was the first international flight dispatched by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein since the UN Security Council banned flights in and out of the country after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The UN sanctions also prevent Iraq from marketing its oil, except under a special oil-for-food program.

The UN Security Council has said that the sanctions will not be lifted until Iraq complies with Gulf War resolutions demanding the elimination of all the country's weapons of mass destruction.

The UN Special Commission, charged with monitoring the sanctions, says that Iraq is still withholding information about its chemical and biological weapons programs.

In Iraq, reporters were bused by the government to the air base to watch the Russian-made Ilushin jet take off.

It was not immediately clear if Iraq planned to fly more pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

It was the second pilgrim plane the kingdom has allowed to land this year in contravention of UN sanctions.

A Libyan plane carrying pilgrims landed in Jeddah on March 29. It was the third such flight since 1995 by Libya in defiance of UN sanctions connected with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Diplomats in the kingdom say Saudi Arabia as custodian of Islam's two holiest shrines cannot be seen as denying any Moslem with a valid haj visa the right to perform the pilgrimage, which reaches a climax this year on April 16.

Up to two million Moslems, half of them from abroad, perform the haj every year. The UN imposed sanctions on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqis, all over 50-years-old, were defiant when they left Baghdad. Sheikh Ibrahim Dirbaz said he was determined to reach Mecca or die a martyr on the way.

Others said they were sick and could not stand the hardship of the 2,000 km land journey through Jordan to Saudi Arabia. Of the 104 pilgrims, 40 were women.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Panel appointed to study moving Sde Dov

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday appointed a commission to investigate the possibility of moving Tel Aviv's Sde Dov Airport onto a proposed man-made island just off the shore...

Bezeq offers rapid data transfer

Bezeq has started offering a new telephone infrastructure service - Switched Multimedabit Data Services - which makes possible the rapid transfer of data from one computer to another...

Super-Sol to open megastore

Super-Sol is on the verge of launching the first of a series of megastores, outgoing chairman Leon Recanati disclosed yesterday at a modest changing of the guard ceremony...

Treasury ready for new cuts in education, health

By DAVID HARRIS

If an additional budget cut is required, a plan is already at hand to make sweeping reductions in health and education spending, a well-informed Finance Ministry source said yesterday...

between the Treasury and the medical and education lobbies. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza refused last month to sign an order raising hospitalization rates by 10 percent...

The Treasury has not yet begun its internal discussion on a possible additional cut to the 1997 budget, according to the source. "It seems increasingly unlikely there will be a decision this month, more likely it will be made in May or even June, but certainly before the end of the second quarter..."

worked on, including a budget cut and concurrent reduction in the central bank's interest rate. There is growing support in the Treasury for the first move to come from the bank in terms of a considerable drop in interest rates, either at once or in several steps over a month or two...

Cisco Systems opens R&D center in Netanya

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Cisco Systems, the international leader in Internet networking solutions, will assign its newly opened research and development center in Netanya with the task of developing the next generation of Internet technology...

Government mulling sale of additional Bezeq stake

By DAVID HARRIS

Following the heightened interest in the impending 24-percent Bezeq share offer, the government is already discussing the possibility of a further flotation or the sale of the controlling stake in the company...

trolling share. "That was only said in reference to the initial 24%," said Bar. Meanwhile, Bezeq marketing vice president Eitan Levy, currently in Japan with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's delegation, told the Bloomberg business news service that Japanese investors are investigating the possibility of purchasing shares in the company...

paratively high level of service, he added. "There is no large Japanese company interested in purchasing shares in Bezeq," company spokeswoman Ella Bar Or said last night. "There have been no direct approaches to the company according to our deputy director for finance, and to the best of his knowledge there have been no approaches to the Government Companies Authority, which is responsible for the sale..."

ment will reduce its stake in Bezeq to 52% before the end of the year from its current 76% share. The 24% will be divested through means of flotations in either Tel Aviv or abroad, or possibly both, together with the sale of share bundles of up to 7%...

Ports and Railways Authority

Tender No. 115895/3/97 Set-Up of a Geographical Information System and Management of Geographical Data at the Ports and Railways Authority (PRA)

- 1. Further to its obligation deriving from the international GATT Agreement regarding governmental purchases, the Ports and Railways Authority hereby requests the submission of proposals for the set-up of a Geographical Information System (GIS) and management of the geographical data at the PRA on an out-sourcing basis.
2. Prerequisites for participating in this tender (further details are specified in the tender documents):
2.1 Previous experience during the past three years in managing two projects on a financial scale of at least \$500,000 each.
2.2 The bidder has registered a turnover exceeding NIS 6 million (net of VAT) per annum, over the past two years.
2.3 The bidder has had experience in Israel of setting-up two projects in the GIS field.
2.4 The proposed project manager has at least ten years' experience in the field of computerized data systems, of which at least three years will comprise project management.
2.5 The data base will be founded on an Oracle type data base.
2.6 The GIS software will have a market share of at least 7% of the world market.
2.7 Undertaking by the software manufacturer to help the bidder in completing and/or operating the system, as specified in the tender documents.
2.8 Compliance with the technical specification clauses marked "M."
2.9 Obligatory participation in the suppliers' meeting to be held on May 15, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. at the PRA's offices at 74 Petah Tikva St., Tel Aviv, 12th floor.
2.10 The bidder shall attach a bank guarantee for implementing its proposal in the sum of NIS 150,000 linked to the index known on the last date for submitting proposals and valid for 150 days from the last date for submitting proposals.
2.11 Submission of all the required certificates in accordance with the Public Bodies Transactions (Enforcement of Bookkeeping and Tax Debts Payment) Law, 1976.
3. All queries should be submitted in writing prior to the suppliers' meeting to Ms. Ruth Schlichter, Fax No. 03-5657046.
4. All tender documents, including the submitted documents, are in Hebrew.
5. The criteria for selecting the winning bidder, excluding cost, are as follows (see further details in the tender documents):
5.1 Compliance with the application chapter.
5.2 Compliance with the technological chapter.
5.3 Compliance with the implementation chapter.
6. The tender documents can be purchased Sunday to Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Purchasing Division, 74 Petah Tikva St., Tel Aviv, 11th floor, room 1103, for the sum of NIS 1,170 (including VAT) which will not be reimbursed. The PRA offices will be closed from April 21, 1997 to April 28, 1997.
7. The price quotation should be submitted in a sealed envelope that is separate from the technical proposal and placed in the tender boxes at the above address.
8. The last date for submitting the bids is June 22, 1997 at 2:00 p.m.
9. The Ports and Railways Authority does not undertake to accept the lowest bid, or any other bid whatsoever, and reserves the right to negotiate with the bidder/s whose bid/s are found suitable.

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TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents Date: 8.4.97 Purchase Price: 161.92 Redemption Price: 160.77

The Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority hereby announces that it is considering to sell all the shares held by the State of Israel (hereinafter: "the State Shares")...

P&G buys Tampax maker for \$1.85b.

CINCINNATI (Reuters) - US consumer products company Procter & Gamble Co said yesterday it would acquire Tambrands Inc and its Tampax tampon brand for \$50 per share in cash or \$1.85 billion. P&G said it planned to fund the acquisition with cash and short-term borrowings, and it did not expect to take a charge for the purchase...

tampon brand in the world." P&G spokesman Scott Stewart said the acquisition, expected to close within the next few months, was expected to be \$0.02 to \$0.03 per share dilutive in the first year, but P&G would strive to cover dilution internally. "So we expect no impact from that," he said. After the first year, Tambrands was seen to be accretive to results, but P&G declined to comment by how much. Trading of Tambrands' shares and options has been active in recent days as market speculation about a possible takeover bid...

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, and CHECKS AND TRANSFERS. Includes sub-tables for Currency basket, U.S. dollar, German mark, etc.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues and their price changes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists international shares and their price changes.

TASE ROUNDPUP

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists TASE round-up data including Mishtanim and Maof indices.

Indexes decrease 2%

Mishtanim 251.30 ▼ 2.03% Maof 260.14 ▼ 1.93%

By ROBERT DANIEL and JOSHUA MITRECK

Stocks dropped yesterday as riots continued in the territories. Stocks were led down by candy and coffee maker Elite Industries Ltd., which fell 3.25 percent to NIS 84.64.

story," said Shachar Gazit, analyst at Batucha Securities and Investments Ltd. Also losing ground were metal products company Urdan Industries Ltd., down 4.5% to NIS 3.07.

less, the market rose two of the last three trading days, he said. The Mishtanim index of the 100 most-traded stocks fell 2.03% to 251.30, while the Maof index of the 25 most-traded shares lost 1.93% to 260.14.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists New York stock market data.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists New York metal futures data.

LONDON

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PARIS

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OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists other market indexes.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists dollar crossrates.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDPUP

Euro stocks up as dollar soars. LONDON (Reuter) - The dollar soared to new peaks against the mark and yen yesterday.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks tumble on profit-taking. NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks ran into a wall of selling yesterday as profit-taking halted the market's three-session comeback after last week's headlong fall.

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SPORTS

in brief

Israel 53rd in latest FIFA rankings

ZURICH - Israel dropped one place, from 52nd to 53rd in the latest FIFA rankings which were published in Zurich yesterday. The 3-0 win over Luxembourg in World Cup qualifying play and the 1-0 loss to Sweden in a friendly earlier last month had no positive effect on Israel's position in the rankings...

England cricketers sent to 'charm school'

LONDON (Reuters) - England's cricketers will attend a 'charm school' next week in an attempt to improve their battered image before the Ashes series starts. Following criticism of some players' appearance and conduct on the winner tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, the course will cover all aspects of public and media relations...

Bangladesh celebrates cricket World Cup win

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Bangladesh celebrated its cricket World Cup status yesterday by dancing in the street, exploding firecrackers and spraying each other with watery dye. Bangladesh defeated Scotland by 72 runs to set up a title clash with Kenya in the final of the ICC Trophy cricket tournament being played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tyson-Holyfield fight postponed

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Mike Tyson has postponed his rematch with Evander Holyfield until June 28 after reopening a cut over his left eye that he first injured in sparring last month. It was the second time Tyson had postponed a fight against Holyfield, and the third time since Tyson was released from prison that he has had to postpone a fight because of illness or injury.

Juventus, Dortmund take European Cup leads



THE AGONY, THE ECSTASY - Juventus's Nicola Amoroso celebrates his goal, the Turin side's first, as Richard Witsche of Ajax Amsterdam looks disconsolately to a teammate.

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Italy's Juventus beat Ajax Amsterdam 2-1 last night in the first leg of the European Cup semifinal - a repeat of last year's final which the Italian club also won. Juventus struck twice in the first half, the first goal coming after 14 minutes from the boot of Nicola Amoroso and the second from the impressive Christian Vieri in the 41st minute. Ajax, who sorely missed Patrick Kluivert up front, staged something of a comeback in the second half and were rewarded in the 66th minute when Ronald de Boer threaded a pass through to Finn Jari Litmanen who kept his cool to score. Ajax now face a tough return leg in the daunting Delle Alpi stadium in Turin on April 23. A fifth European Cup title now looks a tall order for them. In Dortmund, a deflected second-half goal from stand-in Rene Tretschok took Borussia Dortmund a step closer to their first European Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Manchester United in their semifinal first leg. Tretschok, a late replacement in a Dortmund team hit by a crop of injuries, hit a crisp shot from just outside the area in the 76th minute which took a cruel deflection off Gary Pallister into the top left-hand corner. Although it was a fortunate moment on a largely frustrating night for the German champions, Dortmund deserved victory for their industry alone. The Germans went into the game without a handful of first-choice players. In addition to suspended libero Matthias Sammer, they were missing key internationals in strikers

Karlheinz Riedle and Stephane Chapuisat and experienced defender Juergen Kohler. Despite the problems they played the better football on the night, although United did have several good chances to score in the second half. One of the best came in the 66th minute when a pass from Frenchman Eric Cantona put David Beckham clear on the right-hand side of the box. Beckham struck the ball crisply towards goal but defender Martin Kree managed to get his foot in the way. United made a surprise late change just before the kick-off replacing Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel who has been suffering from a back injury, with Dutchman Raimond van der Gouw.

Hap. Jerusalem out to defend State Cup vs. Mac. Tel Aviv

By ARYEH-DEAN COHEN Maccabi Tel Aviv hopes to catch Hapoel Jerusalem while they're down and exploit the capital squad's recent woes to snatch away the State Cup at Yad Eliahu tonight. It's no secret that Hapoel Jerusalem has fallen on hard times of late, culminating in their blowing a chance to finish second in the league standings by losing at home to Hapoel Galil Elyon, then on the road to Maccabi Ra'anana. But worse than just losing has been how Jerusalem has been losing. Against Ra'anana they simply folded, and were unable to even make a dent on the margin of victory, which might have kept them in second place. Maccabi, on the other hand, is on the upswing, having recovered from its elimination from Euroleague play to end their regular season undefeated. On paper, at least, it would seem coach Zvi Sherf's team is a clear favorite. However, Maccabi should be wary of underestimating Adi Gordon and his teammates. It was Gordon who flipped in an underhand at the buzzer to hand the trophy to Jerusalem last year. While the mercurial Jerusalem guard has been having a rough time of late, he's been known to rise to such occasions. Jerusalem is likely to give a good deal of playing time to H. Waldman, whose play in the backcourt has been outstanding recently. Dan Bingenheimer, who has been a major disappointment for Hapoel, is expected back in the starting lineup after sitting out a large portion of Sunday night's game vs. Maccabi Ramat Gan. For Jerusalem to have a chance, they need to have their three-point game clicking. Fortunately, that was definitely the case Sunday night, and Kedar can only hope the sharpshooting will carry over to tonight's game. Jerusalem will also have to find a way to contend with Maccabi's deeper bench, especially up front where Maccabi can bring in Constantin Popa to spell Buck Johnson or Randy White. Jerusalem has only erratic Pini Levy and the offensively-challenged Eyal Hai to replace either Bingenheimer or Billy Thompson. Thompson is a key player in tonight's game. The former member of the Lakers and the Miami Heat has been a consistent hard worker. If he can stay out of foul trouble, he can be a major contributor to Jerusalem's efforts to hold on to the cup. If Jerusalem gets its outside game on track early, and is able to contend for rebounds, there could be a barnburner at Yad Eliahu tonight (live broadcast on Channel 1 starting at 20:30). If they don't, viewers will likely be checking out the Movie Channel by 9:30. In the first game of tonight's State Cup doubleheader, women's league champs Elitzur Holon take on runners-up Elitzur Ramle in a no-holds barred battle between the nation's two top clubs. Holon eliminated Ramle 3-1 in the finals of the women's playoffs, disposing of them much easier than anyone thought they would. That was largely thanks to the play of Wanda Ford and Mila Nikolic, Holon's frontcourt duo who dominated their Ramle opponents. Ramle fans can only hope for a better performance from guard Vika Rodovsky, whose outside game was way off vs. Holon. Orly Grossman needs to improve her play as well, and Ramle will need more steady ballhandling by Limor Mizrahi. The women's game is scheduled for 18:30, and will be broadcast live on Channel 33. President Ezer Weizman will award the trophies to the winning teams.

PSG hosts Liverpool, Barcelona home to Fiorentina in Cup Winners' Cup tonight

LONDON (AP) - Defending champions Paris Saint Germain go into their fifth European semifinal in a row today against a Liverpool team still wondering why they are not top of the English Premier League. PSG reached the UEFA Cup semifinals in 1993, the Cup Winners Cup in '94 and '96 and the Champions Cup in '95. Yet their only triumph was last season's Cup Winners Cup when they downed Rapid Vienna 1-0 in the final in Brussels for their first European honor. Now the French club meet a team which has won the Champions Cup four times and UEFA Cup twice but, ironically, never the Cup Winners competition despite being a five-time winner of England's F.A. Cup. Liverpool should have been top of the Premier League by now but squandered that chance by losing 2-1 at home Sunday to relegation-battered Coventry in a result that stunned English soccer. In today's other semifinal, three-time champions Barcelona host Fiorentina, who won the first-ever Cup Winners Cup final back in 1961 but no European title since. Barcelona have a seven-point lead to make up on arch-rivals Real Madrid in the Spanish standings and are targeting successes in the Cup Winners and domestic King's Cup competitions.

Inter race past Monaco, Tenerife down Schalke in UEFA Cup

LONDON (AP) - Inter Milan took a large step toward their third UEFA Cup title in seven seasons with a 3-1 win on Tuesday at home over Monaco in their first leg, semifinal match. Spanish side Tenerife, in the European cup semifinal for the first time, also got a leg up with a 1-0 win over German side Schalke 04 through a penalty by Felipe Minambres in the sixth minute in their match in the Canary Islands. Italian striker Maurizio Ganz scored twice for Inter in the first half and Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano got the other against the French league leaders. The crucial second legs will be played April 22 in Germany and Monaco. Monaco may find themselves with hardly any home-ground advantage as thousands of Inter fans from neighboring Italy are expected to flood into the Mediterranean principality for the match.

Miami Heat closes in on Atlantic Division title

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) - Alonzo Mourning had a season-high 35 points and 18 rebounds and the Miami Heat rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit to beat the New Jersey Nets 94-92 Tuesday night. Tim Hardaway added 26 points as Miami staged its biggest comeback of the season in winning its fifth in a row. The Heat's previous best comeback was from 15 points behind against Golden State on Mar. 19. The victory combined with the New York Knicks' loss to Cleveland, reduced Miami's magic number for clinching the Atlantic Division to two. Kerry Kittles scored 23 points and Kendall Gill 21 as New Jersey tied a season-high by losing its fifth in a row. The loss was also the 52nd of the season for the Nets under new coach John Calipari, tying the number the team had the previous two seasons under Butch Beard. Cavaliers 93, Knicks 73. In New York, Terrell Brandon scored 25 points, Chris Mills and Danny Ferry had 21 each and the Cavaliers pulled into a tie with Washington for the eighth playoff spot in the East. Brandon also had 11 assists, and he outscored both of New York's point guards 25-0. The Cavs, despite playing without two starters, had runs of 13-0, 9-0 and 9-0 in the second half to turn what had been a tight game into a blowout. Ferry did much of the damage during the runs with three of Cleveland's seven 3-pointers. It was another humbling loss for the once-fearsome Knicks, who fell for the third time in their last four home games.

Griffey leads Mariners past Indians

SEATTLE (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. hit his sixth homer and drove in four runs, and Jay Buhner broke out of a season-opening slump with his first homer and four RBIs as the Seattle Mariners beat Cleveland 14-8 Tuesday night. Sandy Alomar tied an Indians record by homering in his fifth straight game. He tied a career-high with four hits and drove in four runs. Mariners manager Lou Piniella, frustrated by his team's 2-4 start, was ejected by plate umpire Deryll Cousins in the second inning. He then went on a five-minute dirt-kicking, chalk-raising tirade at home plate that delighted the Kingdom crowd of 24,348 and brought a smile to the face of Griffey in center. Cousins tossed Piniella for a comment he made while talking to Seattle starter Dennis Martinez on the mound as the Indians led 5-4. Griffey, who leads the American League in homers, went 3-for-5 and Buhner was 3-for-4. Griffey hit a two-run homer, a 434-foot shot into the third deck in right field in the seventh off Albie Lopez (0-1). Edwin Hurtado (1-0) picked up the win. Red Sox 13, Athletics 7. In Oakland, California, Reggie Jefferson's second homer ignited a seven-run seventh inning that Darren Bragg capped with a grand slam. Bragg, who had an RBI single earlier, finished with a career-high five RBIs and Jefferson hit a pair of two-run homers.

Lemieux scoreless in last home game

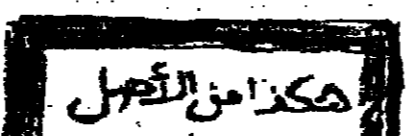
PITTSBURGH (AP) - Mario Lemieux took a flurry of shots but couldn't score a goal in his final regular-season home game as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Boston Bruins 3-1 Tuesday night. The Penguins, 4-0-1 since Jaromir Jagr and Ron Francis returned from injury layoffs, forged a tie with the New York Rangers for fifth place in the Eastern Conference standings and moved within one point of fourth-place Florida. Lemieux, who formally announced his retirement last weekend, put on a big show before a standing-room crowd, but missed all 11 shots - six in a second period that saw him take all but four of the Penguins' 10 shots. Devils 2, Lightning 2. In Tampa, Florida, Martin Brodeur's shutout streak ended at three games, but New Jersey extended its lead in the Eastern Conference race to two points. Jason Wiemer scored at 11:43 of the second period to end Brodeur's career-best run of 213 minutes, 52 seconds. His best previous streak was 189:58 earlier this season. Tuesday's AL results: Toronto at Chicago 4-1; Boston 13, Oakland 7; Seattle 14, Cleveland 8; Anaheim 10, NY 9. Tuesday's NL results: Florida 5, Chicago 3; Atlanta 4, Houston 2; St. Louis 2, Montreal 1; Pittsburgh 2, San Diego 0; NY 5, Los Angeles 3; Philadelphia 2, San Francisco 1.

Table with Eastern and Western Conference standings. Columns include team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Faldo bookies' favorite for Masters

LONDON (AP) - British bookmakers, inundated with bets on Nick Faldo, have been forced to cut his odds on retaining his Masters title from 16-1 to 14-1. Faldo is now the clear favorite with Ladbrokes, which earlier this week listed him among six players at 16-1. "Though we feel that this is a very open Masters, Nick Faldo has clearly emerged as the public's favorite," Ladbrokes spokesman Ian Wassell said. "We have taken a number of sizeable bets, including one of £1,000 and literally thousands of smaller bets." Faldo was also rated even-favorite to shoot a lower first-round score today than playing partner Tiger Woods. Woods is listed at 16-1 to win the Masters, along with Tom Lehman, Greg Norman, Fred Couples and Nick Price.

CLASSIFIEDS section containing various real estate listings under categories like DWELLINGS, SITUATIONS VACANT, and RENTALS.



CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Avner Biron leads his Israel Camerata Jerusalem in an evening of music by Bach...



The Kuijken brothers play Bach as the Authentica early-music series draws to a close.

The Authentica early-music series comes to its conclusion with an evening of Bach performed by harpsichordist Gustav Leonhardt...

On Sunday at the Jerusalem Music Center Leonhardt and Barthold Kuijken present a recital of flute music by the Bach family...

The chamber-music offerings this weekend begin with a concert by violinist and oud player Yair Dalal...

On Saturday night there are recitals by violinist Ariel Shamai and pianist Shlomi Shabat...

MIME

HELEN KAYE

Slovakian mime Milan Sladek performs his multimedia mime show, Apocalypse, based on the Book of Numbers...

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Charming, funny, believable and thought-provoking - the Nefesh Theater's production of Make Yourself at Home...

TELEVISION

Channel 2 has reinstated the live-broadcast Crime Investigation together with its original host, Rafi Ginat...

Children rejoice! The Power Rangers are back with the mighty ZEO Crystal as the source of their power and Lord Zeo as their mentor...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash 6:45 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Time 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Family Ties 8:45 Medicine Demystified 9:00 Arithmetic 9:20 Reading 9:45 Programs for the very young 10:15 Astronomy 10:30 Literature 11:00 Mathematics 11:10 French 11:30 Biology 12:30 In the Heat of the Night 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 City Cat and Tommy 14:35 Quemin Quack 15:00 Auto

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop 7:45 The 700 Club 15:00 Gospel Bill 15:30 Movie: Misesewaper 16:55 Family Challenge 17:40 Perfect Strangers 18:05 Saved by the Bell 18:30 Larry King 18:30 CNN News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 CNN News 20:30 One West Walk 21:30 A Different Talk Show 22:30 Camel Comedy Club - stand-up comedy 23:00 700 Club 00:00 Quantum Shopping

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motormice from Mars 15:30 Beeply 16:00 Friends of Shosh 16:25 Byker Grove 16:45 Eye on TV 16:55 A New Evening 17:34 Zap Around the Country 18:00 Time for Language 18:10 News in English 18:10 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 News in Russian 20:45 Telekassaf 21:15 Quick - action thriller about a hit man hired to kill a Mafia accountant accused of embezzling \$3 million 22:00 Pretude to Love (1995) - erotic 3:25 Sunset Grill (1992) (rpt)

CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's Programs 9:30 Tricky - cartoon 10:00 Breakfast Magazine 10:00 Meetings 10:00 Pablo 11:00 Talking About It - with Danny Houpt 12:00 Mucchio - cartoon 12:30 Truth or Dare 13:00 Hillside 13:30 Open Cards 14:00 Just Us 14:30 The Best 15:00 The Best Israeli Video Clips 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News Magazine with Rafi Reshaf 17:30 Open Cards 18:00 Almost Perfect 18:00 Pacific Blue 20:00 News 20:30 Crime Investigation - Rafi Ginat and the Israel Police broadcast reconstructions of unsolved crimes and ask for the public's help in solving them 21:30 Dan Shilon Live 22:05 Crime Investigation - part 2 23:25 Exposure 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for Two 00:30 From the Hip 1:05 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space 16:00 NBA Basketball 17:00 Out of This World 7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt) 7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt) 8:00 Dallas (rpt) 8:30 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 12:00 Family Album 21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9 21:45 Pop Songs 22:30 Equinox 23:30 The Cairo Geniza

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt) 7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt) 8:00 Dallas (rpt) 8:30 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 12:00 Family Album 21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9 21:45 Pop Songs 22:30 Equinox 23:30 The Cairo Geniza

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 The Rain People (1969) - character study by director Paul Verhoeven 22:00 Cops 22:00 The Ticket 23:00 VIP 21:00 Daisies 21:00 Gillette World

EUROSPORT

6:00 Great Houses of the World (rpt) 6:30 The Ticket (rpt) 7:30 NEC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw 8:00 Today 10:00 European Squawk Box - stocks 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 CNBC Squawk Box (US) 17:00 Art and Architecture Gardening 17:30 Interiors by Design 18:00 The Site 19:00 National Geographic Television: Panama Wild 20:00 The Ticket 20:30 VIP 21:00 Daisies 21:00 Gillette World

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PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and rows for different channels (News, News, News, News, News, News, News).

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (rpt) 6:30 Creations of the Occult (rpt) 9:00 Plants and People (rpt) 9:30 Mozart's Requiem conducted by Sir Colin Davis 10:15 La Traviata 12:30 Pirates, part 2: On Pirates Wins (rpt) 13:30 Treasure Islands, part 1 12:30 The World's Apart: The Amazon (rpt) 14:00 John Steinbeck 14:30 Black Beauty Preview (rpt) 15:35 Don't Fool With Love, part 1: Two-Way Mirror 16:05 National Geographic Explorer (rpt) 17:00 Open University - Cities of Islam: Earthsan; Unwashed; Portrait of a Saint (rpt) 18:05 Pirates, part 2: The Pirates of the Ancient World 19:30 Treasure Island, part 2: Juan Scurvy (rpt) 20:00 The World's Apart: Machu Picchu 20:30 The Fires Within 21:25 Leonarda Fini - a look at her surreal paintings 22:30 National Geographic Explorer: Fire and Steel 19:00 Ice Skating - World Championship highlights 21:00 Boxing 22:00 Spanish League Soccer 23:30 American Soccer

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STAR PLUS

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STAR PLUS

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Haifa man kills wife

A 54-year-old Haifa woman was stabbed to death by her husband early yesterday. The husband then surrendered himself to police.

The woman, Georgette Sitbon, was a nurse at the Herzliya-Horev Medical Center in Haifa and sold holiday apartments in the evenings. Until a few years ago, she worked in the ophthalmology department at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Her husband, Yosef, 56, is an unemployed electrician who became ill several years ago and had surgery for brain cancer in the United States. He was reportedly undergoing chemotherapy.

Neighbors said they had heard

quarreling from the home for around six years. They said they suspected that Yosef Sitbon was jealous of his wife's career, which kept her away from home until late at night. They said Georgette was outgoing and talented, while her husband was a strange, confused man.

The couple has three daughters. They were aware of the tension between their parents and tried to convince their mother to move in with them, according to police. She refused, however, insisting on staying with her ill husband.

Yesterday morning, Yosef Sitbon called one of his daughters

and said: "I killed Mom." He then called police and reported the murder.

While reenacting the murder for police, he said: "I loved her. She was my whole life. She didn't want to talk to me or sleep with me."

He said he stabbed her while she was sleeping and slit her throat.

Police said they believed the man had made preparations for the murder, as the door on the woman's bedroom, where she slept apart from her husband, had been removed, apparently to prevent her from barricading herself inside.

They also said there were signs of a struggle.

Woman has baby despite blood-clotting condition



The girl born yesterday to a woman with a blood clotting condition.

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 21-year-old Jerusalem woman is reportedly the first in medical history to have delivered a healthy baby despite suffering from a severe blood-clotting condition that caused her to undergo a heart-bypass operation and to lose a fetus three years ago.

The haredi woman, whose name was not released, gave birth over the weekend to a healthy 2.7-kilo baby girl at Shaare Zedek Hospital. Doctors allowed the risky pregnancy

after deciding to give her very high-doses of anti-clotting drugs throughout.

The woman first reached Shaare Zedek in 1994, when, pregnant, she was brought into the emergency room with serious breathing problems, low blood pressure and cardiac insufficiency.

She was resuscitated, but was found to suffer from a pulmonary embolism that blocked both pulmonary arteries. She was rushed to surgery for an open-heart operation to remove the blockages; she survived and recovered but lost the baby.

A year later she came to the hospital's high-risk pregnancy unit headed by Dr. Arnon Samuelov to see if she could become pregnant again.

"We tried to find out why she had such difficulties in the previous pregnancy," he recalled. Tests showed that she suffered from protein-S deficiency, which causes over-clotting of the blood. Since pregnancy itself naturally increases the blood's tendency to clot, this posed a serious risk. Doctors gave her heparin in very high doses to thin her blood and monitored her pregnancy closely throughout.

WEATHER

Haifa	8-14
Tiberias	6-14
Afula	4-12
Samarita	1-9
Tel Aviv	8-15
Jerusalem	6-7
Beer Sheva	4-13
Dead Sea	12-20
Eilat	10-20

Forecast: Partly cloudy with rain from time to time.

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapais Chance draw were the king of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds and ace of clubs.

WJC fund-raising appeal renews hostility toward Swiss

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The new era of cooperation between the Swiss and the World Jewish Congress was apparently short-lived. The latest fund-raising campaign by the WJC harks back to the days of confrontation over Switzerland's financial ties with the Nazis.

Never mind that there are Jewish-Swiss partnerships to investigate dormant accounts and to distribute separate "humanitarian" funds to Holocaust survivors. In a four-page "Dear Friend" letter of innuendo and omission, WJC President Edgar Bronfman assails the Swiss for stonewalling. As recently as February 14, though, the WJC and the Swiss vowed in New York to cooperate. "The mood has brightened," Bronfman said at the February news conference. "It was getting a little out of hand and emotional," he said of the public battles between Switzerland and the WJC.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization, which Bronfman also heads, was to meet in New York today to nominate the three Jewish candidates for the seven-member board of the humanitarian fund. The fund will distribute almost 300 million Swiss francs to needy Jewish and non-Jewish survivors.

In the meantime, the Swiss Foreign Ministry said it was prepared to nominate the board as soon as the WJRO officially named its candidates.

Swiss officials declined to comment on the letter.

The letter "is part of our membership drive and fund-raising," the WJC executive director, Elan Steinberg, said in a telephone interview.

It apparently is based on a strategy that says it is easier to raise money by focusing on "failures" than by tooting your own horn and boasting of your successes. And so, despite a year's worth of publicity about its efforts to gain compensation for survivors, the WJC does not mention its significant partnerships with the Swiss.

The humanitarian fund was omitted from the undated letter, which was received by thousands of people on American Jewish mailing lists in the last two weeks. Also missing was any reference to the Volcker Committee, a joint project of the WJRO and the Swiss Bankers Association to oversee an investigative audit of the Holocaust-era unclaimed and dormant accounts in Swiss banks.

Steinberg acknowledged the omissions, but he said, "The one thing that is important here is that the facts are correct."

"We just found Hitler's secret Swiss bank account," says the opening salvo in Bronfman's letter. That statement was based on a US intelligence document, Steinberg said.

However, the document he cited is not nearly as emphatic. Instead, it says, "It is quite possible that Hitler's



Edgar Bronfman - Assails Swiss (Isaac Harel)

foreign exchange revenues from his book [Main Kampf] and foreign exchange revenues from the Nazi Party abroad are held at this Swiss bank." Other intelligence documents dispute the claim entirely.

The WJC also commended its British fellows, "who got their government to release a scathing report that listed the Swiss misrepresentations about the money they received and still retain from the Nazis."

The British Foreign Office report on Nazi gold was scathing and it set off a storm of publicity last September. It also had a stunning blunder that compelled the British in January to issue an embarrassing correction to its most sensational point. A member of the Swiss National Bank had admitted in 1946 that the SNB had received \$500 million in looted gold from Germany, the September report said. However, the Foreign Office later said, the report confused dollars and francs, and should have said 500 million Swiss francs.

The currency error inflated the amount of Nazi gold by a factor of 4, and the correction doused the report's sizzle.

The Nazi-plundered gold, according to the WJC, was used to reimburse European states that were overrun by Hitler "while not one penny went to Holocaust survivors or their families." That was only partly true.

The so-called "non-monetary gold" - stolen rings, jewelry - that was uncovered by the Allies was sent to the International Refugee Organization, which turned most of it over to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee for refugee relief and resettlement.

Bronfman's letter asks for a generous (and tax deductible) contribution to support the WJC's leadership "in this sad affair." He also asks donors to sign petitions to President Bill Clinton and Senator Al D'Amato, thanking them for their assistance in pressuring the Swiss banks.

But he did not suggest that US officials deal with a specifically American issue: that Washington, like the Swiss, apparently failed to turn over millions of dollars of heirless Jewish assets that had been seized in the US during the war.

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